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November 7, 2026

My Dear Republican and Democratic Colleagues:

We return to the Senate with clear direction from the American people. Together, we must bring President Trump's disastrous war with Iran to an end. His short-sighted misadventure has driven up the cost of gas, groceries, and fertilizer, while achieving none of the goals he set out. As you know, we have an important deadline before us. Government funding is set to run out on December 11. I believe we would abdicate our responsibility if we voted to provide billions of additional dollars for President Trump's war of choice in Iran. **We must refuse to invoke cloture on any package that includes another cent for his war.**

Americans all across the country are paying the price for President Trump's war, a war that he is losing. At the grocery store and at the gas pump, families are facing higher prices and fewer options. Farmers and ranchers – who were already struggling under the weight of high tariffs and an ill-conceived trade war – have been hit with increased fertilizer and farm diesel costs. Meanwhile, the radical Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps continues to control Iran, has every incentive to pursue nuclear weapons, and is threatening global shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. We have expended high-end munitions and interceptors against Iran at a far faster pace than we can replace them, undermining our ability to help Ukraine defend itself or deter China and Russia. Our children will bear the costs of this catastrophe for decades.

The stakes are too high for us to fall into our usual shutdown politics. Instead, we should act in a bipartisan manner to forcefully reject the Administration's request for additional funding for the Iran war, a war Congress never authorized and the American people do not want. If we fail to exercise our constitutional duty, we know from Afghanistan and Iraq that these Middle Eastern wars can take decades to end – all the while the American people will bear the cost. Together, we can bring this conflict to a close. It is what the American people demand, and what they deserve.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator