

February 7, 2018
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about militarism. For the past 70 years the US has had the worlds dominant military while keeping that military firmly under civilian control. Your administration has been weakening that separation by drawing from the ranks of generals for cabinet positions, by publicly lauding many of the worlds military dictators and by insisting on adding funding to the military rather than society. A parade of military hardware gives the appearance of a government serving the wants of the military rather than the military serving the wants of the people. It is an implicit threat to opponents both here and abroad. This is particularly true because the iconic examples of videography of military parades remains the work of Riefenstahl filming the Nazis. Besides having the worlds dominant military and economy the US has slowly built up diplomacy, alliances and moral authority. With isolationist saber rattling the country is weakened and the world moves closer to war.

Please assure me that you will not parade tanks through Washington.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our civilian government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson