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**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 3, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: good Hill article in CQ, showcasing bipartisan support, hitting key issue on cost savings

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**From:** Feldman, Daniel F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** Nides, Thomas R; Sullivan, Jacob J; Munter, Cameron P; Grossman, Marc I  
**Cc:** Macklin, Ronita  
**Subject:** good Hill article in CQ, showcasing bipartisan support, hitting key issue on cost savings

CQ TODAY ONLINE NEWS – DEFENSE  
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## Lawmakers Praise Pakistan's Decision to Reopen Supply Route

By CQ Staff

Lawmakers hailed Pakistan's decision to reopen supply lines for U.S. troops in Afghanistan that have been closed for months as part of a dispute between Washington and Islamabad.

The closure has been very expensive for the U.S. military, because troops had to be resupplied by costlier routes through Russia and Central Asia.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the deal Tuesday, while simultaneously issuing an apology for a NATO airstrike last November that killed 24 Pakistan troops — the incident which triggered the supply route closure. The apology apparently cleared the way for the resumption of what has been an essential lifeline for U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

“This is a tangible demonstration of Pakistan's support for a secure, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan and our shared objectives in the region,” Clinton said. “This will also help the United States and [international coalition] conduct the planned drawdown at a much lower cost.”

Rep. Howard L. Berman of California, the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, quickly praised the move, also spotlighting the cost savings.

“The reopening of the transit routes is important because it will help the United States and our allies conduct the planned drawdown of troops in an expeditious and cost-effective manner,” Berman said in a written statement. “I hope this is a first step, and one on which we are able to build upon, in working with Pakistan to help establish a more stable, peaceful and prosperous South Asia.”

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has estimated that using the alternative supply routes cost the United States an additional \$100 million a month.

Just last week, the Pentagon sent a reprogramming request to Capitol Hill, asking for permission to reallocate more than \$8 billion of previously appropriated funds. More than \$2 billion of that stemmed from the higher-than-expected cost of using alternative routes to supply troops in Afghanistan.

South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, an Armed Services Committee member, also called the move “a good step in the right direction” and said that the terms Clinton negotiated were acceptable for U.S. interests.

But he called for better cooperation when it comes to counterterrorism.

“If the Pakistani military intelligence services would engage in aggressive efforts to combat terrorism in coordination with coalition forces, it would tremendously enhance our successes in Afghanistan, provide stability to the Pakistani government and eventually a better life for people on both sides of the border,” he said in a news release Tuesday.

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