

The President is to be commended for his decision to take action inside Syria against ISIL targets.

ISIL's leadership, command and control, and safe haven from which to operate are located all inside Syria. As many of us have stated for months, ISIL cannot be defeated without taking action in both Iraq and Syria.

Of course, a Commander in Chief's decision to take military action is among the most difficult. After closely monitoring this growing threat for three years, I have zero doubt that ISIL represents the gravest threat we have seen since 9/11 to America and our citizens. That said, ISIL is one of many Islamic extremist threats against America. We need a comprehensive strategy to confront and defeat a terrorist ecosystem that has been growing from Northern Africa to the Middle East into South Asia.

The President's forward-leaning rhetoric is encouraging. We will be monitoring the policy implementation of the strategy closely to ensure it comports with the language many of us were looking to hear tonight.