

February 13, 2024

The Honorable French Hill
1533 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Stephen Lynch
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to you as a group of experienced national security leaders, practitioners, and former military service members each with a distinct background at the nexus of digital asset technology and U.S. national security. Last fall, we raised our collective voice¹ and traveled to Washington to discuss our insights with lawmakers. For many of us, this was the first time we engaged directly with Congress. Now, in response to a letter² from Sen. Elizabeth Warren—in which she questioned the motivations and integrity of scores of U.S. military and intelligence veterans without addressing the substance of our arguments—we again raise our voice, not to inject ourselves needlessly into a political world that is new to many of us, but to stand up for what our experience tells us is right.

It is from this perspective that we, the signatories—acting independent of any employer and compelled only by the beliefs derived from our unique expertise—agree unanimously upon the following:

- 1. U.S. competitiveness and technological leadership are essential to our nation's security.**
- 2. Digital assets and the underlying technology are pivotal to our nation's strategic advantage.**
- 3. The Digital Asset Anti-Money Laundering Act (DAAMLA) risks our nation's strategic advantage, threatens tens of thousands of U.S. jobs, and bears little effect on the illicit actors it targets.**

To be clear, the digital asset industry strongly supports U.S. efforts to address illicit activities within the blockchain space. To achieve this effectively, it's crucial for the industry to develop within the

¹ Letter from Blockchain Association and National Security Signatories to Members of Congress (November 15, 2023), https://theblockchainassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NatSecCommunity_LettertoCongress-1-1.pdf

² Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to Blockchain Association CEO Kristin Smith (December 18, 2023), <https://theblockchainassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Sen.-Warren-Letter-to-CEO-Kristin-Smith.pdf>

United States, governed by domestic laws and regulations. Sen. Warren’s DAAMLA legislation, however, would inadvertently hinder law enforcement and national security efforts by driving the majority of the digital asset industry overseas. This shift could also lead to increased liquidity in unregulated offshore exchanges and a loss of valuable expertise and visibility for the U.S. in the blockchain realm. Further, this legislation, if implemented, will have no meaningful effect on the foreign illicit actors it targets.

As blockchain technology and the digital asset industry reach a critical juncture, it’s essential to uphold shared American values at their core. For those lawmakers who are inclined to recognize our high-standing records of military and public service and learn from our distinct expertise on this matter, we appeal now to you: to your open mind and love of country—the very things that have guided the undersigned throughout our careers.

Sincerely,



Gus Coldebella
Partner, True Ventures

Former General Counsel (acting),
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Michele Korver
Head of Regulatory, Andreessen Horowitz

Former FinCEN Chief Digital Currency Advisor,
U.S. Department of Justice Digital Currency
Counsel and Assistant U.S. Attorney, and U.S.
Secret Service Special Agent



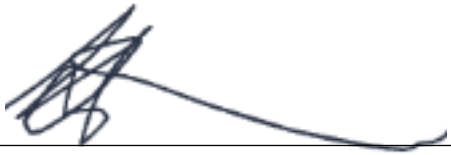
Faryar Shirzad
Chief Policy Officer, Coinbase

Former Deputy National Security Advisor
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Former Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Import Administration



Dustin Palmer
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Alex Pruden
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Former Captain, U.S. Air Force



John Bridge
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Senior/chief inspector of the financial surveillance unit for the U.S. Marshals Service
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Former Strategist, USSOUTHCOM
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Former Strategy Chair, Naval Postgraduate School



Jeffrey Anderson
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United States Marine Corps Veteran



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Rosario Pabst
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Captain, U.S. Air Force

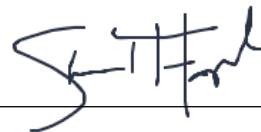


Tobias Barbir
CEO - Founder, Bitcoin Mining
Museum

U.S. Army Veteran
DoD Contractor
Prior NC State employee



Hy Thai
Army Combat Veteran



Shane Hazel
Force Reconnaissance Marine TS
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Ben Kincaid
National security related U.S.
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Paul Brigner
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Former U.S. Army Infantry Soldier

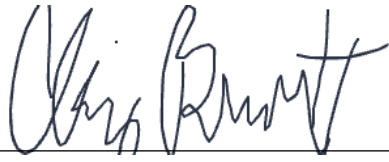


Kenneth Rodriguez Santiago
Former Master Journalist at
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Co-Founder of Veterans for Energy and
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Bitcoin Today Coalition (BTC VETS)

Former USAF and Iraq Veteran, former
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Sergeant California Highway Patrol

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Combat veteran, U.S. Marine Corps.



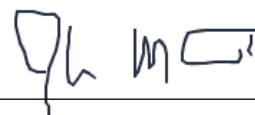
Devon James Read
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Former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant



Steven Grimm
Detective, Retired

Municipal Police Detective (ret), former Digital Forensic Examiner & Federal/State Expert Witness, former Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Member, former FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force Member, former Special Deputy U.S. Marshal, USSS Nationally Top Performing Forensic Partner (2016, '17, '18), former U.S. National Computer Forensic Institute Technical Advisory Council Member, Recognized for Distinguished Service by USAO-EDMO (2008, '17), former Instructor for U.S. National Domestic Communications Assistance Center, former Instructor for U.S. National White Collar Crime Center



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Jordan Nedderman
IT Specialist, EPA

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Combat veteran

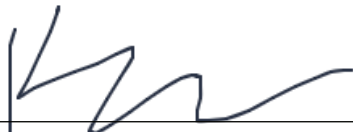


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U.S. Air Force Reserves



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Bronze Star Award, 2012, Baghdad, Iraq
Company Commander, 82d ABN DIV
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Nathan Shumway

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Transportation Planner III

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Wes Lippman
U.S. Marine Corps officer



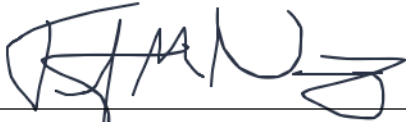
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20-Year U.S. Army Combat Arms Veteran



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Ryan Cochran

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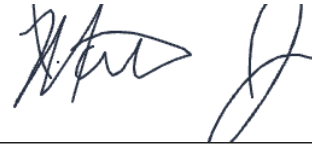
Caleb Holt

Former U.S. Army



Travis West
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Matthew J
Former Squad Leader U.S. Marine Corps



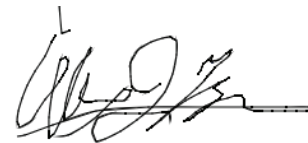
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Kyle Helseth

Intelligence analyst at NSW (SEAL Teams)



Collin Tuthill
Police Detective

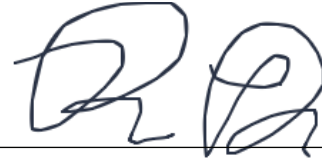


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Paula Goetz



Richard Debiasi



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