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February 12, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to convict Donald Trump of inciting violence against the U.S. government. Votes on this issue *will* be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

Trump was the leader of the executive branch of our government on Jan. 6, when he incited an attack on the legislative branch as it was fulfilling its constitutional duty and certifying the presidential election. The election was not close—Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris won the popular vote by 7 million and the Electoral College by the same margin as Donald Trump in 2016. State and federal judges appointed by both political parties dismissed dozens of lawsuits challenging that outcome, their opinions often seething with anger over the lack of evidence and the perfidy Trump proclaimed. The Supreme Court refused even to grant a hearing.

To be sure, the insurrection was nourished by years of vitriol, hate, and bigotry—as well as blatant lies before, during, and after the election. But it was Donald Trump whose incendiary rhetoric turned smoldering anger into outright sedition. He told his followers to fight. They did and it caused our nation to recoil in horror, threatened the rule of law on which our nation is founded, and cost five people their lives, a police officer among them.

If that does not merit impeachment, what does?

We recognize that this is a difficult vote, for personal as well as political reasons. Members of Congress are fearful for their safety as well as the safety of their loved ones and staff. But this is a historic juncture, a time when failure to act could fatally wound our democracy. NEA members teach students about the beauty and power of our Constitution and democracy every day, and they know that our students are watching what you do now.

The country desperately needs the unity Congress can provide by speaking with one voice—right now. As President, Donald Trump empowered and incited the insurrectionists who violently stormed the United States Capitol, trying to overturn the will of the people. Congress needs to hold him accountable for his actions, remove the threat he still poses, and protect our democracy.

Please vote to convict Donald Trump of inciting violence against the U.S. government.

Sincerely,

Rebecca S. Pringle
President, National Education Association