

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write today to express our strong opposition to your administration's proposal to reopen the U.S. consulate general in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem, that would provide separate diplomatic outreach to the Palestinians.

Reopening the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem would be inconsistent with the *Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995* (Public Law 104-45) by promoting division of Jerusalem. This would be unacceptable, shameful, and wrong. The *Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995* that you supported during your time in the U.S. Senate expressed U.S. policy that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected...Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel." This law received overwhelming bipartisan support with a vote of 93-5 in the U.S. Senate and 374-37 (with 5 voting present) in the U.S. House of Representatives. After repeated presidential waivers since 1995, the Trump Administration implemented this bipartisan law by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2017, opening the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in 2018, and merging the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem with the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in 2019. This third action formally brought the United States into compliance with the *Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995* by moving the U.S. Ambassador to Israel's official residence to Jerusalem.

Your proposal would also be inconsistent with the strong bipartisan support that has been reaffirmed in recent years for the *Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995*. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution by a vote of 90-0 in June 2017 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Israel's reunification of Jerusalem during the Six Day War that "reaffirms the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) as United States law, and calls upon the President and all United States officials to abide by its provisions."

Your administration would create a misguided situation in which the U.S. would essentially have two separate diplomatic missions in Israel's capital, including the U.S. Embassy to Israel along with the consulate general for outreach to the Palestinians whose government is based in Ramallah. The U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem that was established in 1844 was not intended to serve as an outreach office to the Palestinians in Israel's capital. It was only in more recent years that the U.S. consulate general became an outreach office that circumvented the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, reported to the State Department in Washington, D.C, and had jurisdiction over the eastern part of Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Trump Administration fixed this ill-advised situation with the merger but maintained outreach to the Palestinians by establishing the Palestinian Affairs Unit (PAU) within the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. In addition to being inconsistent with U.S. law, it would be entirely unnecessary to reopen the U.S. consulate general in Israel's capital.

Reopening the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem would also reward and turn a blind eye to the Palestinian Authority engaging in the real obstacles to peace, such as refusing to recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State, supporting terrorism through incitement to violence and providing payments to terrorists and their families, encouraging discriminatory boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel, and facilitating an illegitimate International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation for false charges against Israel, to name just a few examples.

Finally, we urge you to respect our close ally Israel's opposition to the reopening of the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem, especially since Israel's cooperation is essential. Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reportedly expressed opposition when visiting the U.S. in August 2021 which has been publicly reiterated by Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid. In May 2021, then Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu stated he was against your proposal as well.

We urge you to therefore not pursue reopening the U.S. consulate general in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem.

Sincerely,



Lee Zeldin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Steve Scalise
HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP



Michael T. McCaul
REPUBLICAN LEADER
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Kevin McCarthy
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER



Elise Stefanik
CHAIR REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE



Kay Granger
LEAD REPUBLICAN
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Robert B. Aderholt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim Banks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kevin Brady
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Rick W. Allen
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Andy Barr
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mo Brooks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kelly Armstrong
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jack Bergman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Vern Buchanan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jodey C. Arrington
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Andy Biggs
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ken Buck
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Gus M. Bilirakis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Donald J. Bacon
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dan Bishop
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ted Budd
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

James R. Baird
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lauren Boebert
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Troy Balderson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Bost
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ken Calvert
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kat Cammack
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tom Cole
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Byron Donalds
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jerry L. Carl
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

James Comer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jeff Duncan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Madison Cawthorn
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dan Crenshaw
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jake Ellzey
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Steve Chabot
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Warren Davidson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tom Emmer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ben Cline
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Rodney Davis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ron Estes
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michael Cloud
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Pat Fallon
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Andrew S. Clyde
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mario Díaz-Balart
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Randy Feenstra
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

A. Drew Ferguson, IV
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Gallagher
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bob Good
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michelle Fischbach
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Andrew R. Garbarino
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lance Gooden
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Scott Fitzgerald
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Garcia
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Brian Fitzpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bob Gibbs
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sam Graves
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Chuck Fleischmann
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Carlos A. Gimenez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mark E. Green, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Virginia Foxx
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Louie Gohmert
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Glenn Grothman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

C. Scott Franklin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Anthony Gonzalez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michael Guest
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Russ Fulcher
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tony Gonzales
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Brett Guthrie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim Hagedorn
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Clay Higgins
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dusty Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Andy Harris, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

French Hill
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Diana Harshbarger
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ashley Hinson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim Jordan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Vicky Hartzler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Richard Hudson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Fred Keller
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kevin Hern
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bill Huizenga
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Trent Kelly
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Yvette Herrell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ronny L. Jackson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Kelly
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jaime Herrera Beutler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Chris Jacobs
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Young Kim
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jody Hice
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bill Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

David Kustoff
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Darin LaHood
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Julia Letlow
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Patrick McHenry
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Doug LaMalfa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Billy Long
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

David B. McKinley, P.E.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Doug Lamborn
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Barry Loudermilk
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Robert E. Latta
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Frank Lucas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Peter Meijer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jake LaTurner
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Blaine Luetkerheymer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Debbie Lesko
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lisa McClain
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Carol D. Miller
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Nancy Mace
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

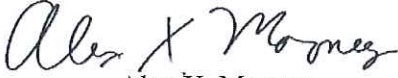
Tom McClintock
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Mary Miller
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tracey Mann
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Brian Mast
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John Moolenaar
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alex X. Mooney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

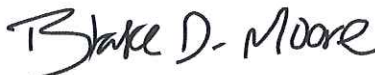

Steven Palazzo
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

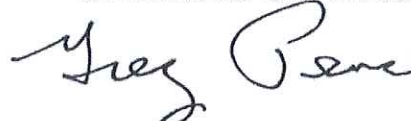

John Rose
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Barry Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Gary Palmer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

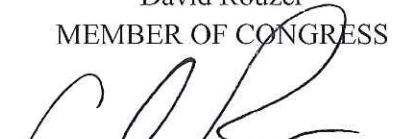

Blake Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Greg Pence
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


David Rouzer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Scott Perry
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Chip Roy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Dan Newhouse
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


August Pfluger
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


John H. Rutherford
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Ralph Norman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Bill Posey
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Maria Elvira Salazar
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Devin Nunes
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Guy Reschenthaler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


David Schweikert
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Burgess Owens
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Tom Rice
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Austin Scott
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Pete Sessions
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Simpson M.C.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Adrian Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Christopher H. Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jason Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lloyd Smucker
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Victoria Spartz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Pete Stauber
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michelle Steel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bryan Steil
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

W. Gregory Steube
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Chris Stewart
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Marjorie Taylor Greene
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Van Taylor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Claudia Tenney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tom Tiffany
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

William Timmons
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michael R. Turner
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

David G. Valadao
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jefferson Van Drew
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Beth Van Duyne
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ann Wagner
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tim Walberg
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jackie Walorski
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Robert J. Wittman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Nicole Malliotakis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



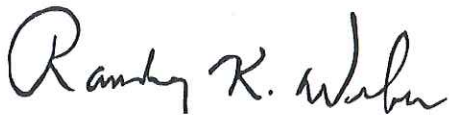
Michael Waltz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Steve Womack
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Adam Kinzinger
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Randy K. Weber
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tim Burchett
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Dan Meuser
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Daniel Webster
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Stephanie Bice
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Joe Wilson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



David P. Joyce
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Liz Cheney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Bruce Westerman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Fred Upton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Roger Williams
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



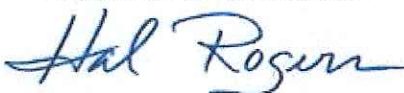
John Carter
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Markwayne Mullin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John Katko
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Hal Rogers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



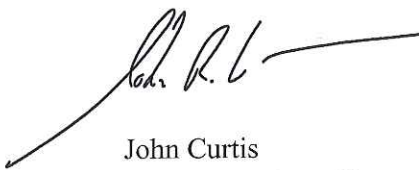
John Joyce, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jay Obernolte
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Trey Hollingsworth
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John Curtis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS