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December 21, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. State Department
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write to you about an issue we believe is critical to maintaining some level of stability in the Middle East. In light of the regional turmoil created by the Syrian civil war, it is time for the United States to formally recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. This recognition is vital to the security interests of both the United States and Israel in order to maintain a democratic presence opposed to Iranian expansion in the region.

As a result of the Syrian civil war, violent extremist groups ranging from the Islamic State to Iranian proxies have increased their presence in the region. Iran is committed to building a land bridge from Iran to the Mediterranean Sea, as evident by their increased military presence and construction of over a dozen military bases in Syria. The Assad regime, which has murdered hundreds of thousands of its own people in its bid to retain power, is collaborating with Iran.

If Iran continues to strengthen its control of the region it will undoubtedly attempt to seize the Golan Heights from Israel and be one step closer to creating its desired land bridge. The United States cannot allow Iran to continue expanding its control in the region. Should Iran gain more control in Syria, the Golan Heights will look like the Lebanese border where Hezbollah has amassed troops and mixed in with the Lebanese Armed Forces.

We are grateful to your United Nations (UN) Ambassador Nikki Haley for being the first UN ambassador to vote against the UN General Assembly's annual resolution condemning Israel's presence in the Golan Heights. Another strong statement of American support for Israel's sovereignty over the Golan would signal that attempts by Iran and its proxies to open up another

front against Israel and the West are doomed to fail. Accepting a permanent Israeli presence on the Golan is a pragmatic policy that furthers deterrence and stability in a part of the world that sorely needs more of both. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress




Scott Perry
Member of Congress



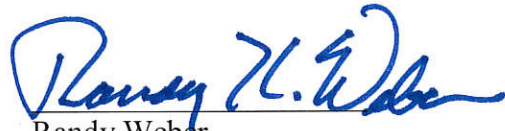
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