

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of Congress we strongly urge you to retract the statements that you made last week regarding the Israeli and Palestinian border. During these unpredictable times in the Middle East, it is essential that the United States maintain a steadfast commitment to one of our closest allies. The security of the State of Israel has a direct correlation with the national security of our country. By calling on Israel to support a Palestinian State that reverts back to 1967 borders, your actions have placed Israel in a dangerous and difficult position.

These unprecedented steps would mark a significant change to established U.S. foreign policy. Israel has already made and under any peace agreement with the Palestinians will make, many land concessions and calling for a return to 1967 borders would jeopardize Israeli security and does not reflect the current on-the-ground reality. Border negotiations should be part of the final status issues between Israel and Palestine and should not be individually singled out.

Mr. President, we are extremely disappointed that you took it upon yourself to redefine the borders between Israel and Palestine. The U.S. role should be one of a mediator that seeks to help resolve this conflict but not declare a winner or loser and does not further compromise security in an already volatile region. We agree with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comments last week that "The viability of a Palestinian state cannot come at the expense of Israel's existence." Your actions are not only misguided, but inappropriate and could not have come at a worse time given the timing of your meeting with the Prime Minister the following day. This week, Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed a Joint Meeting of Congress and reconfirmed that a return to 1967 borders is not practical and would also further place Israel in harm's way.

We urge you and your Administration not to pick winners and losers to appease your agenda at the expense of Israel. Given ever-changing circumstances in the Middle East, our unwavering commitment to Israel, its security and long-term viability is now more important than ever. We look forward to your response to this timely matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton
Member of Congress
Indiana's 5th District



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress
Georgia's 1st District



Sue Myrick
Member of Congress
North Carolina's 9th District



Brian Bilbray
Member of Congress
California's 50th District



Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress
Ohio's 12th District



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress
Utah's 1st District



Trent Franks
Member of Congress
Arizona's 2nd District



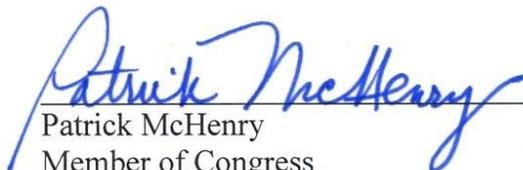
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress
New Jersey's 5th District



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress
California's 21st District



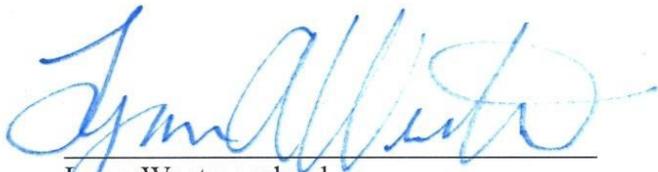
Dan Boren
Member of Congress
Oklahoma's 2nd District



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress
North Carolina's 10th District



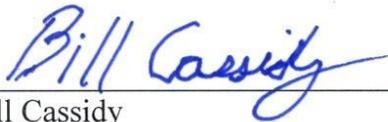
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress
Washington's 5th District



Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress
Georgia's 3rd District



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress
Colorado's 5th District



Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress
Louisiana's 6th District



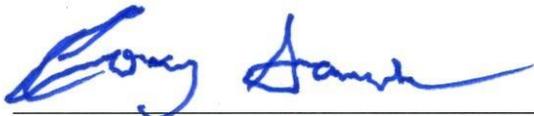
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress
Colorado's 6th District



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress
California's 4th District



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress
Pennsylvania's 11th District



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress
Colorado's 4th District



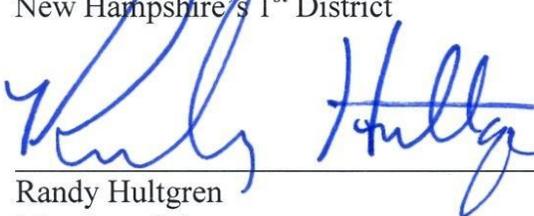
Michael Grimm
Member of Congress
New York's 13th District



Frank Guinta
Member of Congress
New Hampshire's 1st District



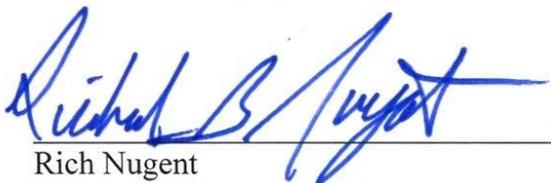
Andy Harris
Member of Congress
Maryland's 1st District



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
Illinois' 14th District



David McKinley
Member of Congress
West Virginia's 1st District



Rich Nugent
Member of Congress
Florida's 5th District



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress
Mississippi's 1st District



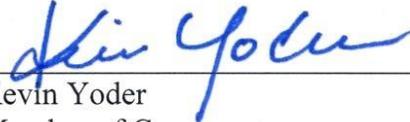
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress
Florida's 12th District



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress
Colorado's 3rd District



Joe Walsh
Member of Congress
Illinois' 8th District



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress
Kansas' 3rd District



Tom Reed
Member of Congress
New York's 29th District