

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

10 July 2020

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

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

America has no greater friend than Israel, and Israel has no greater friend than America. For 72 years, both of our nations have fought side by side in pursuit of justice and peace. No state in the modern history of the world has done more to prepare a path for reconciliation and peace with their neighbors than the State of Israel.

Despite the many challenges to peace in the region, we have borne witness to the incredible overtures made by Israel, as well as an admirable willingness to compromise with the Palestinians; Israel's efforts, however, have continually been met with open hostility and violence. For the purposes of assessing the possible policy options available to Israel in the Judea and Samaria Area, we must recall how we got to this point.

- After a 2000 meeting with former President Clinton and former Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasser Arafat, then-Prime Minister Barak offered Arafat a Palestinian state – which included all of the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem as the tentative new capital, and 95% of the Judea and Samaria Area. Arafat rejected the offer.
- Following Arafat's rejection, the Palestinians launched a Second Intifada - a mass terror campaign resulting in the deaths of over 1,000 Israelis. One of these attacks included the 2001 bombing of a Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem that killed Malki Roth, a 15-year-old American girl.
- In 2008, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered a deal similar to the 2000 proposal, but with added territorial concessions. In addition, Olmert made accommodations for greater numbers of Palestinian refugees to return to Israel. Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas rejected the proposal.
- In 2005, Israel unilaterally left the Gaza Strip, ceding complete control to the Palestinian people.
- Since the 2005 Gaza transfer, Israel has endured a tenfold increase in precision-guided missile attacks; for example, during the 2014 Gaza conflict, Palestinians fired over 4,700 rockets into Israel.
- Following Israel's generous gesture in 2005, the Palestinian people voted to give Hamas, a terrorist organization guilty of horrific crimes against the Israeli people, a mandate following their 2006 legislative elections.

Many who wax poetic about a perceived injustice when raising concerns regarding a potential annexation of 30% of Judea and Samaria willfully fail to countenance two important points. First, for Israel, decisions regarding territorial boundaries are necessitated by national security concerns and survival. As has been said ad nauseam, if the Palestinian Authority would lay down its arms, peace would ensue; If Israel did the same, Israel would cease to exist. Second, when Israel won control over Judea and Samaria following the 1967 war, their presence in the area was perfectly legitimate under international law. In that instance, Israel endured an unprovoked attack by Jordan; it repelled the attack and took control of Judea and Samaria. In such a scenario, Israel has a legal obligation under international statute to administer the territory and protect the population. Under international law, until peace is achieved and terrorism ended, Israel has every right to retain control of Judea and Samaria.

As we have seen, however, Israel continues to offer many territorial concessions in Judea and Samaria, yet the Palestinian Authority seems more intent on eliminating the existence of a Jewish state than in earning a Palestinian one.

You soon will receive a letter criticizing any potential annexation of the Judea and Samaria Area. We urge you reject the blatant anti-Semitism that pervades that letter, and instead continue the groundbreaking work you, on behalf of the United States and President Trump, have done to further peace and justice for the Israeli and Palestinian people. We appreciate your time and consideration of this critical matter and look forward to your response.

Very Respectfully,



SCOTT PERRY  
Member of Congress



ANDY BIGGS  
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS, M.D.  
Member of Congress



DENVER RIGGLEMAN  
Member of Congress



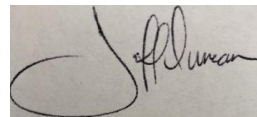
SCOTT DESJARLAIS  
Member of Congress



TED BUDD  
Member of Congress



RON WRIGHT  
Member of Congress



JEFF DUNCAN  
Member of Congress



JODY HICE  
Member of Congress



RUSS FULCHER  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Paul A. Gosar in blue ink.

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Randy K. Weber in black ink.

RANDY K. WEBER  
Member of Congress