

DOUG LAMALFA  
1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0501

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
506 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL: (202) 225-3076  
FAX: (202) 226-0852

OROVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1453 DOWNER STREET  
SUITE A  
OROVILLE, CA 95965  
TEL: (530) 534-7100  
FAX: (530) 534-7800

REDDING DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2885 CHURN CREEK ROAD  
SUITE C  
REDDING, CA 96002  
TEL: (530) 223-5898  
FAX: (530) 223-5897

<http://lamalfa.house.gov>

June 18, 2015

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is with a grave sense of concern for the current state of relations between your administration and Israel that we write in response to recent public statements you made regarding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

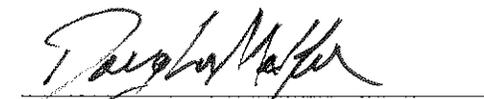
During an interview with a reporter for an Israeli TV station, you discussed the possibility of Israel and the Palestinian Authority reaching an agreement on a two-state solution. However, you placed significant and disproportionate blame for the lack of such an agreement on Prime Minister Netanyahu, which we believe is a profound misjudgment and a startling mischaracterization of the impediments to a peace agreement.

In reference to Prime Minister Netanyahu, you commented, "his statements have suggested that there is the possibility of a Palestinian state, but it has so many caveats, so many conditions, that it is not realistic to think that those conditions would be met at any time in the near future. And so the danger here is that Israel as a whole loses credibility."

These statements are inaccurate and create unnecessary tension in our nation's relationship with one of our closest allies. In order to achieve a two-state solution, Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that the Palestinian Authority must break ties with the terrorist group Hamas, recognize Israel as a Jewish state, and be willing to participate in good faith negotiations. Israel should accept nothing less. By acknowledging that these very reasonable conditions will not be met in the near future, the next logical step should be to recognize the intransigence of the Palestinian Authority as the real reason why negotiations cannot move forward.

Mr. President, we believe the true danger to Israel's credibility is the appearance of the United States turning its back on Israel, as our staunch ally attempts to navigate a very difficult peace process. We urge you to reconsider the impact of your public comments on this topic.

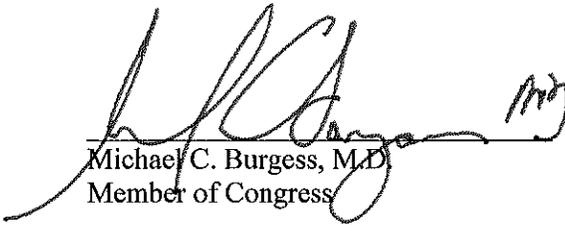
Sincerely,

  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Babin  
Member of Congress

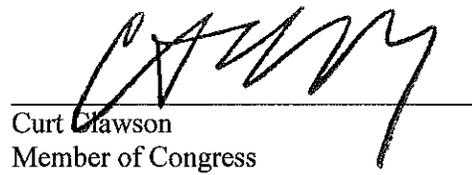
  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

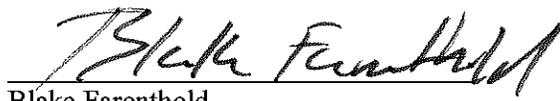
  
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Member of Congress



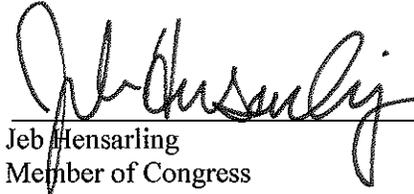
Bob Gibbs  
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Louie Gohmert  
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Cresent Hardy  
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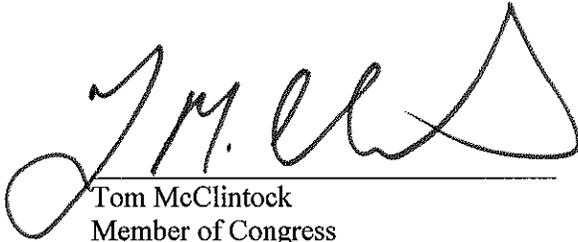
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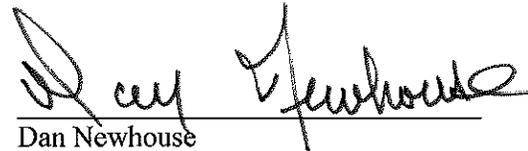
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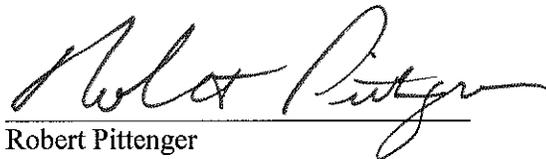
Tom Marino  
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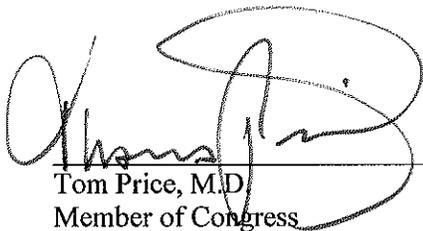
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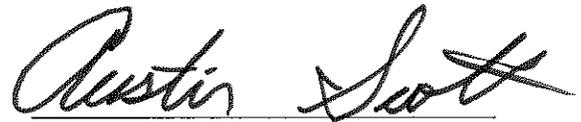
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Joe Pitts  
Member of Congress



Tom Price, M.D.  
Member of Congress



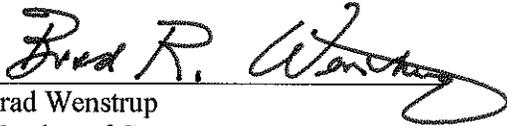
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