

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

November 8, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the potential visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Washington. President Erdogan's decision to invade northern Syria on October 9 has had disastrous consequences for U.S. national security, has led to deep divisions in the NATO alliance, and caused a humanitarian crisis on the ground. Turkish forces have killed civilians and members of the Syrian Democratic Forces, a critical U.S. partner in the fight against ISIS, and displaced over one hundred thousand people from their homes in northern Syria.

President Erdogan's calamitous actions in Syria follow a long list of disconcerting steps under his leadership. President Erdogan has pushed Turkey closer to Vladimir Putin's Russia, purchasing the Russian S-400 air and missile defense system despite the threat that system poses to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and NATO interoperability, while rejecting the United States offer to sell Turkey the PATRIOT system instead. President Erdogan has also cooperated with Russia on the TurkStream gas pipeline, enabling Putin's efforts to keep Europe dependent on Russian energy sources, and most recently agreed to an expanded Russian role in Syria. His aggressive actions in the Cypriot exclusive economic zone represent a violation of Cyprus' right to develop its national resources. Domestically, President Erdogan has overseen a systematic rollback of democratic institutions in Turkey, concentrating all political power in his person, persecuting political opponents and peaceful protestors, and imprisoning journalists in shocking numbers. His imprisonment of innocent American citizens and local staff from the U.S. Embassy is especially egregious.

Importantly, the House of Representatives spoke clearly when it passed, on a bipartisan basis, H.J.Res. 77 on October 19 and the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act on October 29, legislation which expressed our deep concerns about Turkish actions in northern Syria and would impose sanctions to press President Erdogan to cease its military action there.

Given this situation, we believe that now is a particularly inappropriate time for President Erdogan to visit the United States, and we urge you to rescind this invitation.

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Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress



GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Member of Congress



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress



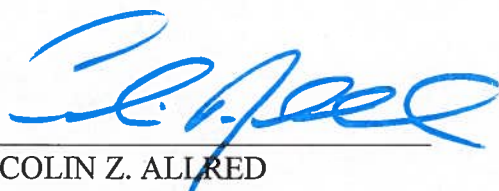
SUSAN WILD  
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH  
Member of Congress

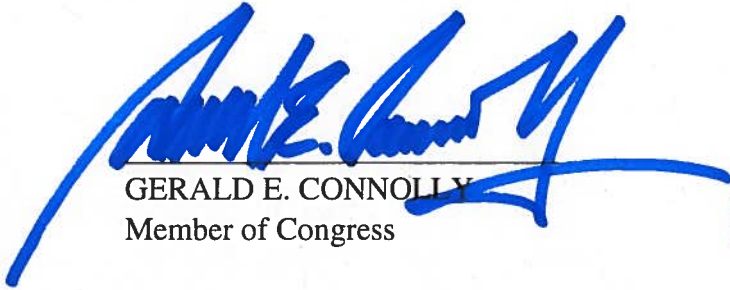


COLIN Z. ALIRED  
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

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GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



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JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress



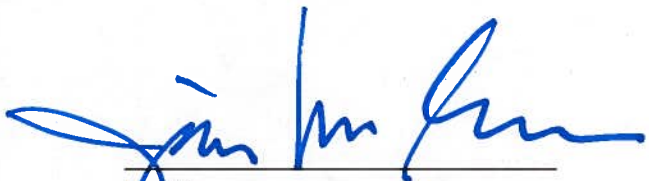
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BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress




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JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress




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JAMES P. McGOVERN  
Member of Congress



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DINA TITUS  
Member of Congress



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ILHAN OMAR  
Member of Congress