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Armenian National Committee of America  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss alarming reports that the Department of Commerce may be considering granting a license to permit the export of rifles to Azerbaijan.

As you know, from your long friendship with Americans of Armenian heritage in Rhode Island and across the United States, our community is deeply troubled by the U.S. military aid program to Baku, and even more shocked by the possibility that American offensive weaponry may be deployed against Armenians in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) and Armenia. The victims of Azerbaijan's attacks are, very often, the relatives and friends of Armenian American citizens.

We share the detailed concerns raised by Senator Robert Menendez, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, in his February 2, 2023 letter requesting that you oppose the granting of license for the export of U.S. armaments to Azerbaijan. Given the ongoing Azerbaijani blockade of Artsakh and the very real and imminent danger of its Aliyev authoritarian regime launching a new round of major hostilities, we ask for an opportunity for the Armenian National Committee of Rhode Island to join with our national ANCA team in discussing this matter with you personally at your first opportunity.

Thank you for your service to the United States and for your abiding friendship with our nation's Armenian American community.

Sincerely,

Aram S. Hamparian  
Executive Director  
Armenian National Committee of America

Stephen Elmasian  
Chair  
Armenian National Committee of Rhode Island