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March 30, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express concern with recent reports that your Administration plans to “reevaluate” its policy towards Israel, including potentially reducing support for our friend and democratic ally at the United Nations. U.S. support for Israel cannot waver. We must continue to oppose unilateral Palestinian and anti-Israel actions at the U.N. which only make a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians more difficult to achieve.

As you know, Israel has historically been singled out for unfair treatment at the U.N. In March 2013, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon noted that, *“Israel’s been weighed down by criticism and suffered from bias and sometimes even discrimination [at the U.N.]”* In 2013 alone, Israel was unfairly condemned 21 times for human rights abuses by the U.N. General Assembly. By contrast, the Syrian regime, which was brutally slaughtering its citizens by the thousands, was condemned once by the UNGA. Recently, countries including Iran and Sudan, where women are routinely abused and deprived of basic human rights, spearheaded a U.N. initiative to exclusively condemn Israel—the only nation in the region that provides genuine equal rights to women.

I appreciate your Administration’s past opposition to unilateral Palestinian and anti-Israel initiatives at the U.N. As you said in 2011, *“whatever efforts they [Palestinians] mount in the United Nations will be symbolic... Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations won’t create an independent Palestinian state.”* I agree and urge you to continue to defend Israel at the U.N.

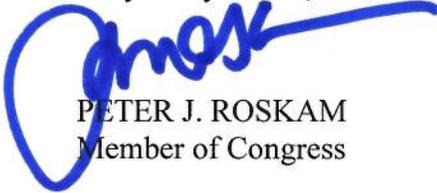
Throughout its history, Israel has demonstrated a unique willingness to make difficult concessions for peace. Good-faith negotiations led Israel to peace with both Egypt and Jordan—agreements that have served as anchors of stability in the region. In the past few years, Israel has again taken profound steps in its quest for peace with its Palestinian neighbors, including extending settlement construction freezes and releasing deadly terrorists. And yet these actions were met with the Palestinian Authority pursuing unilateral statehood at the U.N. and forming a unity government with Hamas—an internationally-recognized terrorist organization that seeks Israel’s destruction.

The increasing threat posed by Iran’s ongoing quest for nuclear weapons and the rise of ISIS and other Islamic extremists underscore the need to maintain an unbreakable relationship with our greatest ally in the region—the State of Israel. **Now is the time to reaffirm, not “reevaluate,” this critical partnership.**

Therefore, I urge you to redouble your efforts to ensure the historic strategic and moral bonds between the United States and Israel remain strong now and into the future.

Please feel free to contact Omri Rahmil on my staff at (202) 225-4561 to discuss further.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roskam", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

PETER J. ROSKAM  
Member of Congress