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December 9, 2020

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The Honorable

Joe Biden

President-Elect

P.O. Box 438

Wilmington, DE 19899

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

On behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), we extend to you our sincere congratulations on your election victory.

As you and your administration begin to define and advocate for your foreign policy agenda, we look forward to collaborating with you and other members of the administration to not only strengthen the historic bonds of friendship between the United States and long-time ally, Greece, and strategic partner, Republic of Cyprus, but to also promote the rule of the law in the Aegean and hold regional powers such as Turkey accountable for their behavior. To that effect, we greatly appreciate the statement that you released on issues of concern to the Greek-American community during your campaign.

Unfortunately, successive administrations throughout modern Presidential history have taken an approach of appeasement towards Turkey despite its irredentism and violations of both international as well as U.S. laws, such as the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), among others. We hope, given your comprehensive understanding of the Eastern Mediterranean and your consistent advocacy for the rule of law throughout your career, that you will take a different approach compared to previous administrations.

Mr. President-Elect, you have championed the cause of strong U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, as well as the promotion of overall stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, for almost four decades. The AHI has a special level of pride in knowing that our then chairman, Dr. Dean C. Lomis, along with other AHI members in Delaware, played an instrumental role in helping to familiarize you with the Cyprus issue and keeping you informed of its developments over the years.

The United States exercising its influence to resolve the division of Cyprus, and, on a broader level, ensuring that southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean is politically, economically, and socially stable, and for democratic principles, including adherence to the rule of law, is in the self-interest of the United States. The United States has important strategic interests in the region. Significant commerce and energy sources transit through this vital part of the world. The region will only continue to grow in importance, given the substantive energy discoveries of the past ten years in the Eastern Mediterranean and the alignment of democratic frontline nations in the area, such as the burgeoning partnership between Greece, Cyprus, and Israel.

As such, we look forward to working with you and your administration in strengthening US-Greece, US-Cyprus relations, and safeguarding the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarch. We wish you every success as you embark on your new challenges to help lead our nation during this historic time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Larigakis", written in a cursive style.

Nick Larigakis
President