

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to condemn acts of aggression taken by the Republic of Turkey in Cyprus's sovereign territory and to reassert the right of Cyprus to develop its hydrocarbon resources.

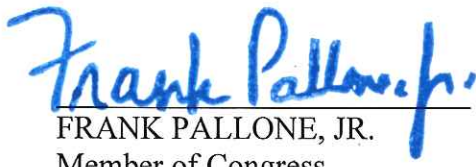
Cyprus, the United States, and other important U.S. trade partners in the region have a longstanding and enduring partnership in the Eastern Mediterranean. This has led to strong regional trade cooperation, especially with regards to the discovery and development of energy resources in the Mediterranean Sea over the past decade. Most countries directly affected by these new discoveries have engaged with each other through diplomatic actions to settle disagreements. This has not been the case with the Republic of Turkey.

In 2017, Turkey attempted to expand its claim on hydrocarbon resources within Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on several occasions and greatly intensified its military presence in an area stretching south from Rhodes to the coast of Paphos. On February 11, the Turkish military began harassing a vessel contracted by Italian energy company Eni while on its way to Block 3 in Cyprus's EEZ. Further threats by Turkish warships against a research vessel belonging to ExxonMobil Corporation on its way to Block 10 reflect a policy of aggression by the regime of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

We appreciate that several U.S. officials, including Vice President Mike Pence and former-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have rightly described Cyprus as a "strategic partner" in the Eastern Mediterranean. We also recognize the statement released by the U.S. Department of State on March 3 that partially addressed the actions taken by the Turkish military and "recognize[d] the right of the Republic of Cyprus to develop its resources in its Exclusive Economic Zone." However, we believe the myriad of aggressive Turkish actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean Seas deserve a more forthright condemnation by your administration. The United States cannot stand by as important trade partners, allies, and friends like Cyprus endure consistent harassment from the Erdogan regime.

We urge you to speak out against the aggressive actions taken by Turkey in the region and show that our country will not allow this reckless behavior to continue unabated. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the Administration's plan to address this growing concern with Turkey.

Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



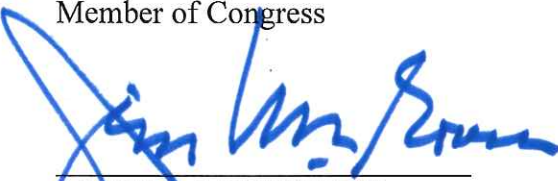
GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



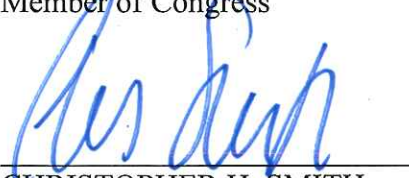
THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress



TED POE
Member of Congress



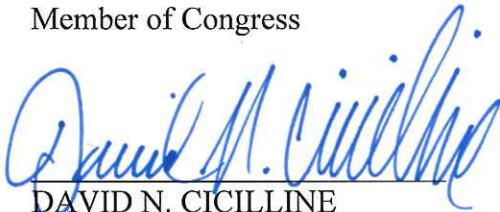
ALBIO SIRES
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Member of Congress



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