

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

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American Hellenic Institute
1220 16th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Thank you to the American Hellenic Institute for hosting this event to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the illegal invasion of Cyprus by Turkey. While I am unable to attend today, I am honored to have the opportunity to share my thoughts with you all.

Recent events have brought the world's attention to the aggressive behavior of Turkey under the leadership of President Erdogan. From his jailing of journalists to silencing of political dissidents, the blatant disregard for human dignity shown by Erdogan reveals that Turkey, under his leadership, is not currently a nation capable of acting in the best interests of the desire for international peace and cooperation. However, I am especially proud that these shared goals exist in the partnership among the United States, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel.

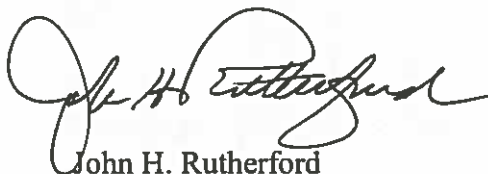
The need for strong partnerships in this dangerous region is clear and pressing. I have long been a supporter of the United States' continued alliance with our Eastern Mediterranean partners and am proud to co-sponsor H.R. 2913, the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019.

It is in the national security interests of the U.S. and our regional partners to promote, achieve, and maintain energy security throughout the region. We can achieve these goals and preserve stability, international cooperation, and safety for generations to come.

I would also like to extend my thanks to those of you here in attendance, the countless employees who work behind the scenes at AHI, and my colleagues in Congress offering their support. All of you play an instrumental role in maintaining the strong relationship between the U.S. and its Eastern Mediterranean allies.

Thank you for your invitation today, and I look forward to our continued work ahead.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress