President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write today to express our strong opposition to your administration’s proposal to reopen the U.S. consulate general in Israel’s eternal capital, Jerusalem, that would provide separate diplomatic outreach to the Palestinians.

Reopening the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem would be inconsistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) by promoting division of Jerusalem. This would be unacceptable, shameful, and wrong. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that you supported during your time in the U.S. Senate expressed U.S. policy that “Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected…Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel.” This law received overwhelming bipartisan support with a vote of 93-5 in the U.S. Senate and 374-37 (with 5 voting present) in the U.S. House of Representatives. After repeated presidential waivers since 1995, the Trump Administration implemented this bipartisan law by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in 2017, opening the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in 2018, and merging the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem with the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in 2019. This third action formally brought the United States into compliance with the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 by moving the U.S. Ambassador to Israel’s official residence to Jerusalem.

Your proposal would also be inconsistent with the strong bipartisan support that has been reaffirmed in recent years for the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution by a vote of 90-0 in June 2017 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Israel’s reunification of Jerusalem during the Six Day War that “reaffirms the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) as United States law, and calls upon the President and all United States officials to abide by its provisions.”
Your administration would create a misguided situation in which the U.S. would essentially have two separate diplomatic missions in Israel’s capital, including the U.S. Embassy to Israel along with the consulate general for outreach to the Palestinians whose government is based in Ramallah. The U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem that was established in 1844 was not intended to serve as an outreach office to the Palestinians in Israel’s capital. It was only in more recent years that the U.S. consulate general became an outreach office that circumvented the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, reported to the State Department in Washington, D.C., and had jurisdiction over the eastern part of Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Trump Administration fixed this ill-advised situation with the merger but maintained outreach to the Palestinians by establishing the Palestinian Affairs Unit (PAU) within the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. In addition to being inconsistent with U.S. law, it would be entirely unnecessary to reopen the U.S. consulate general in Israel’s capital.

Reopening the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem would also reward and turn a blind eye to the Palestinian Authority engaging in the real obstacles to peace, such as refusing to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish State, supporting terrorism through incitement to violence and providing payments to terrorists and their families, encouraging discriminatory boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel, and facilitating an illegitimate International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation for false charges against Israel, to name just a few examples.

Finally, we urge you to respect our close ally Israel’s opposition to the reopening of the U.S. consulate general in Jerusalem, especially since Israel’s cooperation is essential. Israel’s Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reportedly expressed opposition when visiting the U.S. in August 2021 which has been publicly reiterated by Israel’s Foreign Minister Yair Lapid. In May 2021, then Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu stated he was against your proposal as well.

We urge you to therefore not pursue reopening the U.S. consulate general in Israel’s eternal capital, Jerusalem.

Sincerely,

Lee Zeldin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Steve Scalise
HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP

Michael T. McCaul
REPUBLICAN LEADER
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Kevin McCarthy
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Elise Stefanik
CHAIR REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Kay Granger
LEAD REPUBLICAN
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Member of Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kat Cammack</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry L. Carl</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl L. “Buddy” Carter</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Cawthorn</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Chabot</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Cline</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Cloud</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew S. Clyde</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Cole</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Comer</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric A. “Rick” Crawford</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Crenshaw</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Davidson</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Davis</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott DesJarlais, M.D.</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mario Díaz-Balart</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byron Donalds</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Duncan</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neal P. Dunn, M.D.</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Ellzey</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Emmer</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Estes</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Fallon</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Feenstra</td>
<td>MEMBER OF CONGRESS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Darin LaHood
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Doug LaMalfa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Doug Lamborn
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Robert E. Latta
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jake LaTurner
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Debbie Lesko
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Nancy Mace
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tracey Mann
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Julia Letlow
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Billy Long
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Barry Loudermilk
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Frank Lucas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Blaine Luetkemeyer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mariannette Miller-Meeks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lisa McClain
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tom McClintock
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Brian Mast
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Patrick McHenry
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

David B. McKinley, P.E.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Peter Meijer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Carole S. Miller
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mary Miller
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John Moolenaar
MEMBER OF CONGRESS