

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations
Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations
Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Menendez:

We write to express our deep concerns about the nomination and possible confirmation of Mike Pompeo to serve as the new Secretary of State. Mike Pompeo has an alarming hardline record in favor of the use of military force instead of diplomacy that is of great concern given the fact that the security challenges we face around the world do not have military solutions.

As the current CIA Director, Mr. Pompeo has expressed deeply hawkish and ideological views in a position that requires non-partisanship and ideological neutrality. Additionally, Mr. Pompeo has been a staunch defender of President Trump and in some cases allegedly politicized intelligence to benefit the president. For example, as CIA Director he inaccurately stated that the United States intelligence community had determined that Russia interference did not affect the outcome of the 2016 election. During his tenure on the House Intelligence Committee, Mr. Pompeo also politicized the hacking of emails that had been stolen from the Democratic National Committee. Given this, one could rightfully question whether Mr. Pompeo cares more about defending and protecting President Trump than securing and protecting our democracy.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Pompeo deeply opposed the Iran Deal and expressed shameful displays of anti-Muslim sentiments. Such views will undermine Mr. Pompeo's ability to advance American values abroad and be a credible partner to our international allies. With a little over one month before the President will need to reissue sanction waivers to maintain U.S. compliance with the Iran Deal, confirming Mr. Pompeo will empower President Trump to unilaterally withdraw from the nuclear accord, inching us closer to an unnecessary war with Iran.

Furthermore, at a time when our nation needs to prepare for high-level, diplomatic talks with North Korea, the appointment of Mr. Pompeo signals a lack of urgency, commitment to, and understanding of, diplomacy. Mr. Pompeo not only has little experience as a diplomat and negotiator, but also has expressed little interest in diplomacy with North Korea. Instead, Mr. Pompeo has stated strong support for regime change as the only way to resolve the challenges posed by North Korea. Such a strategy would have untold national security, human and financial costs that would threaten to destabilize the entire region.

Mr. Pompeo's fundamental lack of understanding of foreign policy and warmongering attitude will only weaken American leadership around the world. Indeed, his support for unauthorized U.S. hostilities in Syria and the Saudi-led war in Yemen is a threat to the Constitution and Congressional

oversight duties. His indifference or inability to act as a check on the president, coupled with his dangerously hawkish views on national security and foreign policy make Mr. Pompeo unfit to be our chief diplomat.

We strongly urge the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to vote no on nomination of Mike Pompeo. Instead, we urge the committee to only advance nominees for the State Department who have seasoned track records of respecting and championing human rights, international law, and diplomacy to solve the world's challenges.

Sincerely,

Barry Lee

Mark R.

Jim [unclear]

Steve Cohen

Hank Johnson

Bob [unclear]

Jeep [unclear]

Raul M. Grijalva

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Jan [unclear]

Rep. M. [unclear]

Danny L. Davis

Eleanor H. Norton

Keith Ellison

Tulsi Gabbard

Ed Bern

Wendell

Donni Watson Coleman

Mark SSO

John M

Michael C. Caputo

Juan Van Perven

Donny D.

[Signature]

Janie Raski

Frank Patrick

Alan Lowenthal

[Signature]

Katherine M. Chan

David S. Bump

Primo D. [Signature]

Rosa L. DeLuca

Nonette Diaz Baragon