

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Young  
Chairman  
Defense Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Defense Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

CC: The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman

Dear Chairmen Granger and Young & Ranking Members Lowey and Dicks:

As the Congress moves to reduce government spending and bring our national debt under control, we know how important it will be to prioritize appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution. With America at war, escalating instability in the Middle East and democratic allies threatened, prioritizing America's foreign assistance spending will be even more important for our national security.

Your commitment to the security of Israel has been unwavering, and we applaud your longstanding leadership in ensuring the strength of the U.S.-Israel relationship. We write today to reaffirm our strong commitment to the U.S.-Israel relationship and urge your prioritization of U.S. security assistance to America's strongest ally in the Middle East.

In recent days, we have witnessed a succession of mass protests and turmoil in many Middle Eastern nations. This regional upheaval underscores the importance of Israel as the preeminent, stable democracy in the Middle East and America's strongest democratic ally in the region. We know that the national security of the United States is directly tied to the strength and security of the State of Israel. Ensuring Israel's continued qualitative military edge in the region and completing the U.S.-Israel 10-year Memorandum of Understanding for military assistance remains a key American national security priority. As Israel faces threats from renewed instability in Egypt, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza and the existential danger posed by Iran's nuclear program, U.S. security assistance to Israel, including supporting Israel's acquisition of the Iron Dome rocket defense system, has never been more important for our own national security interests.

Therefore, as you consider the State-Foreign Operations and Defense Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 in the upcoming Continuing Resolution, we urge you to include America's full \$3 billion commitment for Fiscal Year 2011 under the 10-year U.S.-Israel Memorandum of

Understanding. We also urge that you provide the necessary funding to help Israel deploy the Iron Dome rocket defense system, to protect its civilian population from rocket attacks. These measures will ensure our critical democratic ally maintains her qualitative military edge in a dangerous region of the world.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Dold  
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress