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One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

August 5, 2020

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
Minister of External Affairs
Government of India
2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Dr. Jaishankar:

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, we are writing jointly to demonstrate the strong bipartisan support for the U.S.-India relationship. Members of both parties recognize the impact that a strong U.S.- India partnership will have on the trajectory of the 21st century. As Prime Minister Modi said in February of this year, our ties “are no longer just another partnership. It is a far greater and closer relationship.”

This closer relationship is all the more important as India faces aggression from China along your shared border, which is part of the Chinese government’s consistent pattern of unlawful and belligerent territorial aggression across the Indo-Pacific. The United States will remain steadfast in support of India’s efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As champions of the U.S.-India relationship, we have been delighted to see our countries’ close cooperation on issues from defense to climate change. It is because of our support for the bilateral relationship that we note with concern that conditions in Jammu and Kashmir have not normalized one year after India’s repeal of Article 370 and the establishment of Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory.

We acknowledge the ongoing serious security and counterterrorism concerns in the region and look forward to working with your government to address these concerns while upholding our shared commitments to the democratic values and freedoms on which our countries’ bond was built. As Prime Minister Modi said earlier this year, “Unity in diversity and unity's vibrancy is the key to a strong relationship between India and America.” We look

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forward to working with you to continue to strengthen and advance this vibrant and consequential relationship.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Ranking Member