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

October 19, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

With our many constituents in the Orthodox Christian community across the country, we are looking forward to your welcome of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the last week of October, 2021. We are hopeful that this trip to Washington, DC will be met in the extraordinary manner and appropriate protocol with which you hosted him as Vice President in 2009. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of his election as Ecumenical Patriarch. As you know, an exceptional welcome is appropriate for the spiritual leader of the second largest Christian Church in the world and a person of his many valuable accomplishments.

We appreciate the fact that His All Holiness, a world-leading advocate for interfaith dialogue and peace, was the first to motivate Muslim leaders to condemn the 9/11 attack on America as an anti-religious act. We value his historic dialogue and prayer for peace with Pope Francis at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 2014. This brotherly gathering was with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Pope who are viewed as the brother-Apostles Andrew and Peter's 269th and 265th direct successors, respectively. We know that Peter began his Church and ministry in Rome and Andrew began his in what is today Turkey, the locale of His All Holiness' headquarters and Ecumenical Patriarchate.

We admire the high regard within which Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is held as a preeminent international environmental leader, sometimes known as the "Green Patriarch." We are pleased that his recognitions include our Congress' highest honor – the Congressional Gold Medal – which we understand you helped secure in 1997.

This visit is an excellent opportunity for our Congress and your Executive Branch to follow in the Ecumenical Patriarch's footsteps and demonstrate our mutual desire for the spirit of peace and cooperation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



GREGORY W. MEEKS
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House Foreign Affairs Committee



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Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee

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Member of Congress

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Cheri Bustos
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Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

André Carson
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Buddy Carter
Member of Congress

Troy Carter
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Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
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Liz Cheney
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
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Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
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Jerry Connolly
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
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Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
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Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Danny Davis
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
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Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
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Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Drew Ferguson
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
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Chuck Fleischmann
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Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

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James McGovern Member of Congress	David McKinley Member of Congress	Sean Patrick Maloney Member of Congress	Grace Meng Member of Congress
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz Member of Congress	Randy Weber Member of Congress	Daniel Webster Member of Congress	Peter Welch Member of Congress
Jennifer Wexton Member of Congress	Nikema Williams Member of Congress	Rob Wittman Member of Congress	Lee Zeldin Member of Congress