Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Eric Cantor Majority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Majority Whip U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, & Majority Whip McCarthy:

As new Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we strongly support the American people's call to reduce government spending and bring our national debt under control. Runaway spending and trillion dollar deficits are unsustainable and we know tough choices must be made to control federal spending. To live within our means, we must do a better job of prioritizing appropriations. A top priority of ours will always be ensuring the safety and security of our great nation. Central to this belief is our recognition that the national security of the United States is directly tied to the strength and security of the State of Israel.

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 affirm our strong commitment to the U.S.-Israel relationship and urge full funding of U.S. security assistance to America's strongest ally in the Middle East.

In recent weeks, we have witnessed a succession of mass protests and turmoil in many Middle East nations. This regional upheaval clearly underscores the importance of Israel as the preeminent, stable democracy in the Middle East and America's strongest democratic ally in the region. As such, we believe that 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 escalating instability in Egypt, Hezbollah rockets in Lebanon, Hamas terrorists in Gaza and the existential danger posed by Iran's nuclear program, U.S. security assistance to Israel, including funding to support Israel's deployment of the Iron Dome rocket defense system, has never been more important for our own national security interests.

Therefore, as this Congress considers the upcoming Continuing Resolution, we strongly 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 we maintain the promised 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

Austin Scott

Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515 Lou Barletta