

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

December 13, 2018

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We support the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue, the first meeting of which took place on December 13, 2018. We commend the two nations for undertaking this initiative, and commend you and Greek Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs Georgios Katrougalos for launching this endeavor.

History, commerce, security, and shared democratic values underpin a close relationship between the United States and Greece. Our countries have a dual interest in many concerns, including independent energy supply sources and national security, particularly given the strategic geographic location of Greece. Athens is playing a key stabilizing role in a turbulent wider region; besides, it is a reliable, trustworthy, predictable, and stable ally and partner of the U.S., promoting crucial regional synergies and cooperation, including with Cyprus and Israel. Moreover, our nations both encourage and support military appropriations for excess armaments to bolster Greek national security.


The U.S. and Greece cooperate extensively within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), where Greece is a prime, fully-paid dues member. Greece has been an ally of the U.S. in the global war on terror, and has proven its willingness and determination to participate in a number of crucial NATO missions, including in Afghanistan. To that end, the two nations express strong disapproval of provocative statements designed to interfere with either country's national security interests.

Americans and Greeks have a strong commercial relationship, with \$2.2 billion in trade in 2017. Our countries continue to encourage cross-private investments to bolster both economies. We also support the People to People programs between Greece and the United States, and recognize they have been and will continue to be a staple of the relationship between our nations.

The Strategic Dialogue reaffirms the importance of the United States-Greece relationship and the robust commitment to the importance of our partnership. We commend you for launching this initiative, encouraging greater security collaboration in the area of defense, and supporting an increased focus on energy and economic development.

Thank you for your long record of distinguished service.

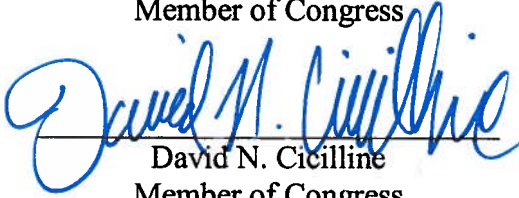
Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



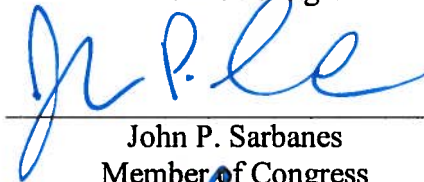
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress




John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress