

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 12, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

The President's National Security Advisor recently said that our nation's relationship with Israel should be "unquestionably strong, immutable, regardless of political seasons in either country and regardless of which party is in control in either country." We could not agree more.

The United States has long worked with Israel on issues related to energy and the environment. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which provided for such cooperation, passed the Senate in an overwhelming bipartisan vote. An American company is helping explore and develop hydrocarbon resources in the Eastern Mediterranean. Most recently, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 passed both chambers of Congress unanimously and President Obama signed it into law last December.

We are writing to express our support for the renewal of a historic agreement that expired on November 25, 2014. Under its terms, our nation guarantees the delivery of oil to Israel in the event that Israel ever loses access to global markets, as may occur during a crisis. The first iteration of this agreement was signed under President Ford in 1975. President Carter's Secretary of State formalized the agreement in 1979. It has been renewed under Presidents Clinton in 1994 and Bush in 2004. It has never been invoked. We appreciate that your Department is working closely with the Government of Israel to assure its energy security. We urge you to expedite the renewal of this important agreement as a meaningful gesture of support to our friend and ally at this challenging time.

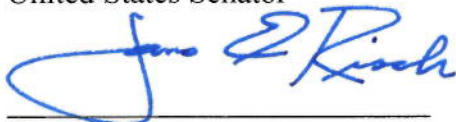
Sincerely,



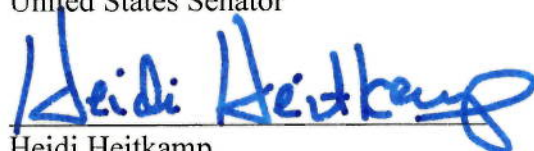
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



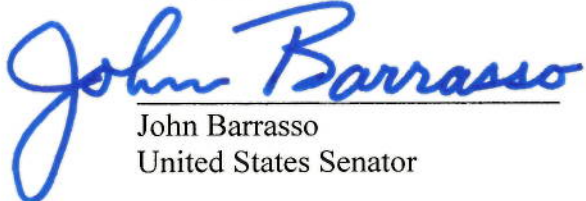
Mark Warner
United States Senator



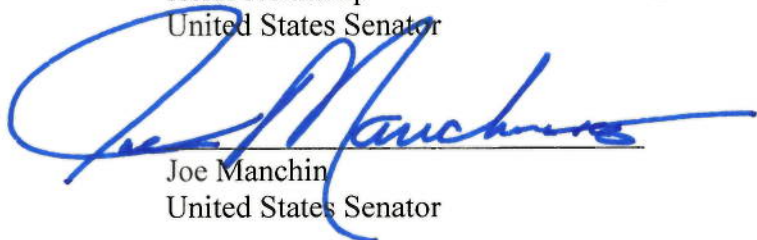
James Risch
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



Joe Manchin
United States Senator