

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

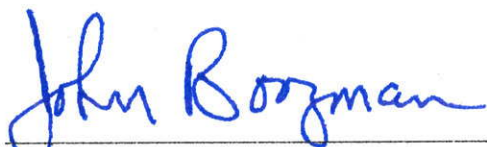
We, the undersigned Senators, write to you to express our concerns with recent comments made by senior officials in your administration about the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu.

It is with grave concern that we read reports in *The Atlantic* that public, yet anonymous, vulgar and disparaging characterizations of Prime Minister Netanyahu are being made by those whom work and speak on your behalf. Israel has long been one of our country's closest allies, and we believe that attacks of a personal nature on its current head of state are wholly inappropriate, unacceptable and disgraceful. The United States Senate, and Congress as a whole, has a long history of overwhelming, bipartisan support for the only stable democratic country in the Middle East. In these trying times, Israel needs the reassurances that come from our strong bilateral relationship. Disparaging off-the-record comments like these only serve to cast doubt on our commitment to fulfill promises made to those abroad.

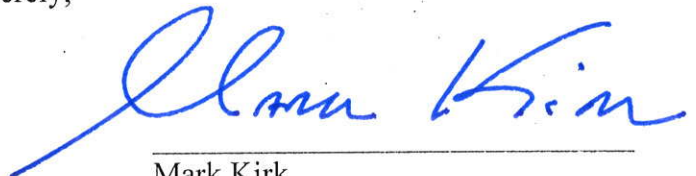
As we move towards the beginning of a new Congress in January, we want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the state of Israel and our intentions to ensure, through the legislative process, that our ties with Israel remain as strong as ever. With the continued emergence of threats in the region, and to Israel itself, the need for strong U.S. – Israel relations is now as great as ever. As we have seen in recent months, a strong bilateral relationship is not only important to ensuring Israel's safety but also that of the United States.

While your administration's official policy has been supportive of Israel, your refusal to hold those making these comments accountable gives the appearance of a faltering in a long standing friendship. It also significantly weakens our ability to broker an agreement that brings a sustainable peace to the Middle East. It is our hope that your administration will refocus its efforts from personal attacks to the faithful execution of Congressional instruction.

Sincerely,



John Boozman,
U.S. Senator

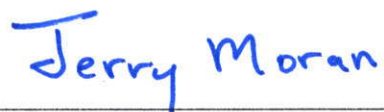


Mark Kirk,
U.S. Senator

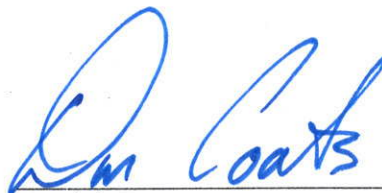
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Jerry Moran,
U.S. Senator



Daniel Coats,
U.S. Senator



David Vitter
U.S. Senator