

MICHAEL F. BENNET  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:  
261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:  
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING  
1244 SPEER BOULEVARD  
DENVER, CO 80204  
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to request that the Trump Administration position the United States to continue to promote a clear path toward negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and to encourage the Israeli government not to take actions outside of direct talks that would undermine prospects for long term peace.

Longstanding U.S. policy and the international consensus has supported talks between the parties as a resolution to the conflict, and the United States has long played a proud convening role to that end. I have consistently advocated for a two-state solution and for actions by Israel, Palestinians, and surrounding actors that further, rather than undermine, the prospects of direct talks with the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security.

I am concerned that unilateral annexation of the West Bank by Israel outside the confines of negotiations will diminish future prospects for such talks and could potentially destabilize the region further, undermining U.S. and Israeli security interests. Therefore, I encourage the U.S. administration to recommit to the United States' historic leadership role in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and work to ensure no actions are taken that undermine the prospect for talks.

Strong bipartisan support for a stable and open relationship between the United States and Israel is critical to the security of both nations. I hope that you will ensure the United States upholds its role as a leader, convener, and interlocutor with the aim of security and long term peace.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator