

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 13, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write in support of the Trump administration's efforts to advance lasting stability in Gaza and enduring security for Israel. President Trump's leadership has been instrumental in negotiating and maintaining the ceasefire agreement and in securing the ongoing release of hostages. It is vital to continue applying maximum pressure on Hamas to release the remaining hostages still held in Gaza. We also commend the administration's continued commitment to ensuring that Hamas is fully disarmed and can never rule again in the territory. As discussions on Gaza's future continue, we must avoid repeating the mistakes that empowered the terror group to take hold in the first place.

For decades, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has operated in Gaza, yet extensive reporting, investigations, and intelligence assessments documented systemic infiltration of the agency by Hamas and other U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations. At least twelve UNRWA employees took part in the Hamas-led October 7 attacks, and roughly ten percent of UNRWA's Gaza staff have ties to terrorist groups, with many more having close relatives involved in these organizations. Since October 7, Hamas has repeatedly stolen the agency's aid and supplies, weapons have been found in its schools, tunnel infrastructure has been uncovered in or near its facilities, and its buildings were even used to hold hostages. Long before the war, UNRWA's curriculum was already known to radicalize Palestinian youth by promoting antisemitism and glorifying terrorism.

In response to these alarming findings, the United States rightfully suspended funding to UNRWA and Israel barred the agency from operating on its territory. These steps were necessary because UNRWA has shown it cannot maintain neutrality or operate without being co-opted by terrorists. During your recent visit to Israel, you reaffirmed UNRWA's ties to terrorism, describing the agency as "a subsidiary of Hamas" and making clear that it "is not going to play any role" in the delivery of aid to Gaza. Reinstating UNRWA would only recreate the very conditions that allowed Hamas to entrench itself and exert control in Gaza.

We strongly urge the administration to ensure that UNRWA play no role in any efforts to stabilize, govern, and rebuild Gaza. Instead, we encourage the United States to work with vetted international partners, trusted regional actors, and nongovernmental organizations that are demonstrably free of terrorist influence and committed to transparency, accountability, and peace.

We appreciate your leadership and stand prepared to work with the Trump administration to support Gaza reconstruction efforts and ensure lasting security for Israel.

Sincerely,



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



James E. Risch
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee



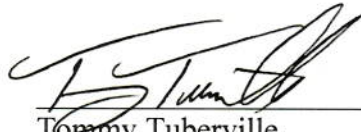
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Ted Budd
United States Senator



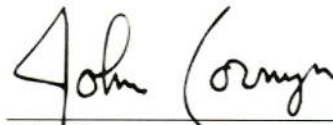
Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



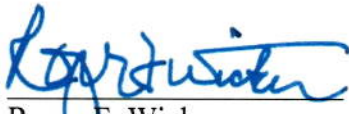
Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



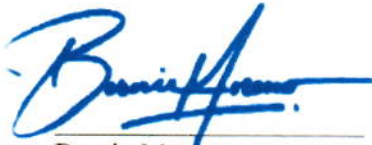
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



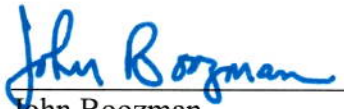
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United States Senator



Bernie Moreno
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Tim Sheehy
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



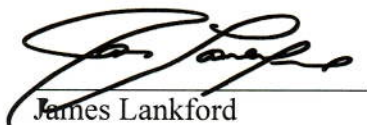
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



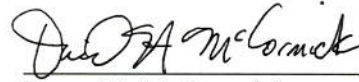
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United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Dave H. McCormick
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator