

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

July 11, 2011

His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas  
President  
Palestinian National Authority  
Al Muqata'a, Ramallah West Bank

Dear Mr. President:

We write to reiterate our serious concerns about your intentions to pursue recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations. It has been the longstanding belief of the United States government that the path to a true and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis will come only as a result of direct negotiations. We write to reaffirm that belief and warn of the severe consequences of abandoning it.

Toward that end, the United States Congress has recently taken a number of actions. On July 7, 2011, the House of Representatives passed a resolution reaffirming this principle by a vote of 407-6. The bipartisan resolution was introduced by leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties and co-sponsored by 356 Representatives. The Senate unanimously passed the companion resolution with a nearly-unprecedented 89 co-sponsors.

The U.S. Congress has generously supported Palestinian efforts to build infrastructure and build the capacity of institutions in the past. However, American assistance has always been predicated upon Palestinian leaders' commitment to resolve all outstanding issues through direct negotiations.

Now that both the US House of Representatives and Senate have spoken in near unanimity along these lines, we write to state once again our grave concern and urge you to engage in negotiations with Israel. Current and future aid will be jeopardized if you abandon direct negotiations and continue your current efforts.

Sincerely,



KAY GRANGER  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations



NITA LOWEY  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations