

Dear Colleague:

As you may know, the Greek government recently stopped a flotilla of ships from sailing to Gaza as part of an effort to embarrass Israel, a vital U.S. ally, and further the agenda of the terrorist group Hamas.

We are therefore sending the following letter to the Greek Ambassador to express our appreciation for their leadership and wisdom and to express our hope that our two countries will continue work together in the future to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East.

If you would like to sign on to this letter, please contact Jeremy Kadden at Jeremy.kadden@mail.house.gov or call 225-5965.

Sincerely,

SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

MICHAEL G. GRIMM
Member of Congress

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

Dear Ambassadors Kaskarelis:

We write to express our gratitude for the efforts of the Greek government to prevent a flotilla of ships from sailing from Greek ports to the Gaza Strip. Your government has shown great wisdom in the face of extraordinary pressure, and helped to stop an act of reckless and potentially dangerous international provocation.

The world community must recognize, as your government has, that these flotillas are nothing more than an attempt to embarrass our common ally, Israel, while helping Hamas, a terrorist organization. They harm the cause of peace in the Middle East and make negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority even more difficult.

The State of Israel has the right, and even the obligation, to enforce the blockade to ensure the safety and security of its citizens, because Hamas has so often used Gaza to attack Israel. The purpose of this flotilla is therefore not humanitarian assistance, but to run a legal blockade.

Indeed, the Israelis have already invited aid-carrying ships to unload their goods for screening at the port of Ashdod, and more than 6,000 tons of food, fuel, merchandise, and building material enter Gaza each day.

The Greek government has shown great strength and courage and has unequivocally stated that it will not be a party to efforts to help Hamas and harm the cause of peace in the Middle East. We look forward to continuing our close relationship as we work together to advance peace in the region and stop extremists who want to push their own hateful agendas.

Sincerely,

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS