



Congressman Eric Cantor
By fax: 202-225-0011

November 3, 2010

Dear Congressman Cantor,

We are writing to you today, the day after mid-term elections, as Americans who care deeply about Israel. We are appealing to you, a leader in the next Congress, to not allow support for Israel to be politicized.

Support for Israel has never been a partisan issue. Since the birth of the Jewish state, American political leaders – from both major parties – have supported the special relationship between the U.S. and Israel. Republicans and Democrats have also recognized that a safe, secure, and strong Israel living at peace with its neighbors is a key national security interest for America. Sustained, credible U.S. efforts to achieve Israeli-Arab peace are a necessary element of U.S. support for Israel and a cornerstone of any serious U.S. approach to confronting the challenges emanating from this volatile region.

Over the past six decades, friends of Israel in Washington, from both parties, have worked to support this goal. Their efforts strengthened Israel in times of crisis and paved the way for enduring peace treaties with Egypt and with Jordan.

Today, as Israel faces continued security threats, as attacks on its legitimacy increase, and as the viability of the two-state solution is increasingly threatened by changes on the ground, it is all-the-more important that American friends of Israel work together to press for peace.

Unfortunately, as was seen during the election campaign and previously, there are those who prefer to play politics with the issue – using Israel to score political points. This is a cynical tactic that comes at the expense of the best interests of both the U.S. and Israel.

Congressman Cantor, now more than ever you are in a position to make sure that Congress chooses peace over partisan political game-playing. We urge to use your leadership role in the next Congress to rally support for Middle East peace from both sides of the aisle. We urge you, too, to forswear and fight off efforts to promote legislation that could undermine America's credibility, limit the president's diplomatic toolbox, or create obstacles for U.S. leadership in the Middle East.

Pro-Israel credentials are not measured in political grandstanding. They are earned by promoting policies that support Israel's security, which includes promoting peace and the two-state solution. Likewise, the most pro-Israel US Congress will not be the one whose members ceaselessly try to outflank one another with dogmatically hawkish positions on core issues of the peace process. Rather, it will be the Congress that, on its own and in support of the president, works to hasten the achievement of Israeli-Arab peace.

We urge you to lead by example for peace, for the sake of both the US and Israel. And as it has always done, Americans for Peace Now stands ready to work with you and other members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, in pursuit of security, stability, and peace for Israel and the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Martin Bresler
Chairman

Debra DeLee
President & CEO

