

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With our many constituents in the Orthodox Christian community across the country, we are looking forward to your welcome of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the last week of October, 2021. We are hopeful that this trip to Washington, D.C. will be met in the extraordinary manner and appropriate protocol with which you hosted him as Vice President in 2009. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of his election as Ecumenical Patriarch. As you know, an exceptional welcome is appropriate for the spiritual leader of the second largest Christian Church in the world and a person of his many valuable accomplishments.

We appreciate the fact that His All Holiness is a world-leading advocate for interfaith dialogue and peace. We value his historic dialogue and prayer for peace with Pope Francis at Christ's tomb in Jerusalem in 2014. As you know, this brotherly gathering was appropriate as the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Pope are the brother-Apostles Andrew and Peter' 268<sup>th</sup> and 265<sup>th</sup> direct successors, respectively. We know that Peter began his Church and ministry in Rome and Andrew began his in what is today Turkey, the locale of His All Holiness' headquarters and Ecumenical Patriarchate.

We admire the high regard within which Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is held as a preeminent international environmental leader, sometimes known as the "Green Patriarch." We are pleased that his recognitions include our Congress' highest honor – the Congressional Gold Medal – which we understand you helped secure in 1997.

This visit is an excellent opportunity for our Congress and your Executive Branch to follow in the Ecumenical Patriarch's footsteps and demonstrate our mutual desire for the spirit of peace and cooperation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

Angus King  
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

Mike Lee  
United States Senator

Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

Todd Young  
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

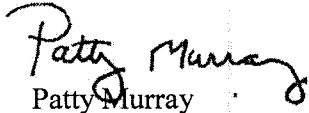
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator


Rob Portman  
United States Senator


Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

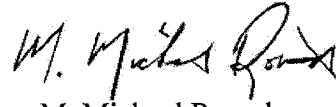
Mitt Romney  
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator


  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

**Thomas R. Carper /s/**  
  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

  
  
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator