

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 9, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

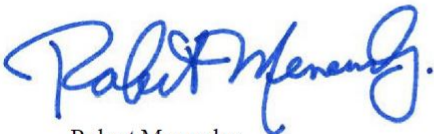
We are writing to express our strong concern about President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's announced intention to open the beach in Varosha, Cyprus in violation of several United Nations Resolutions and long standing policy in the country. We urge you to directly call on President Erdogan to reverse the decision. We also urge you to work through the United Nations Security Council to ensure implementation of the organization's existing resolutions regarding Varosha.

Through his actions on Varosha and his support for Azerbaijan in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, President Erdogan is working urgently to change facts on the ground while many in the west are distracted by competing events. The United States needs to dispel this view and make clear our strong interest in events across the region. This starts with your engagement and that of the Secretary of State. We support a return to dialogue after months of tension caused by Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean, but Erdogan's move on Varosha calls into serious question Turkey's genuine commitment to a diplomatic path forward. Working with the European Union, the United States must lead an effort to condemn these actions.

The United States must also lead United Nations' initiatives to press for the implementation of resolutions concerning Varosha, including #550 (adopted in 1984) which called for the "transfer of that area to the administration of the United Nations" and #789 (adopted in 1992). Without such strong signals from UN, Turkey will feel emboldened to take further steps that permanently damage any hope for a bizonal, bicomunal federation on the island.

We understand that you have a close relationship with President Erdogan and that you communicate with him frequently. We support engagement with leaders around the world if used in ways that advance the U.S. interest. Please work with urgency to use your close friendship with President Erdogan to ask him to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions on Varosha and to stop damaging the prospects for reunification negotiations.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator