

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2022

The Honorable Anthony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional U.S.-Lebanon Friendship Caucus, we write to express our strong support for Lebanon and Israel to continue negotiations toward a final agreement regarding the disputed maritime border in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

The United States has long been working as a moderating partner between the two countries. The negotiation, should both sides define mutually agreeable terms, would empower the people and economies of both countries. The broader region as a whole also stands to benefit from the security and stability the long-term investment opportunities this once-in-a-generation energy agreement has the possibility to deliver.

There are historic implications to the outcome of these negotiations. For Lebanon, a country currently plagued by economic turmoil and political uncertainty, to participate in these negotiations and finalize an agreement would show tremendous progress in their leaders' ability to govern. Such an agreement would allow for domestic sourcing of energy and create opportunities for domestic and foreign investment, and ease some of Lebanon's serious economic challenges.

The continued support and commitment of the United States allows for frank discussion, and the opportunity for a robust, fair agreement to be realized by both parties. Within all relevant rules and regulations, we strongly urge the U.S. to remain committed to encouraging both Lebanon and Israel to continue their negotiations toward a final agreement regarding the maritime border.

Sincerely,



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

cc/Dorothy Shea
United States Ambassador to Lebanon