

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In November, 2011, you received a letter affirming our support for the current United States law prohibiting contributions to the United Nations or any associated organization that awards the Palestinian Authority the same standing as full member states. As you know, in spite of this law the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) voted on October 31, 2011 to award the Palestinian Authority full-member status and in so doing further complicated the peace process between Israel in the Palestinian Authority by giving the latter recognition outside of a negotiated settlement between the two parties involved.

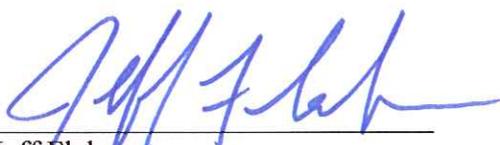
Your written response to that letter, dated December 12, 2011, stated that, "there is simply no substitute for the difficult give-and-take of direct negotiations," and that, "ultimately, genuine peace can only be realized between Israelis and Palestinians themselves." Because UNESCO's decision to award the Palestinian Authority full-member status undermines any "give-and-take" negotiations, we were surprised to see that the Fiscal Year 2013 budget request for the Department of State contains nearly \$79 million for UNESCO, and contains a footnote affirming that "the Department of State intends to work with Congress to seek legislation that would provide authority to waive restrictions on paying the U.S. assessed contributions to UNESCO."

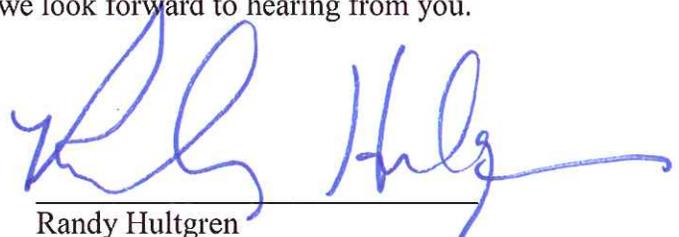
Your response articulated President Obama's policy that "direct negotiations remain the only effective way for Palestinians and Israelis to deal with the difficult issues they face and achieve a lasting peace." We are therefore seeking clarification from you on how the Administration plans to support this policy, while actively seeking to support an organization that willingly chose to undermine it.

Moreover, support for UNESCO after it defied the United States would send a signal to other organizations like it that the United States does not have the courage of its convictions. That message would also be communicated to our allies. Given the many difficult foreign policy challenges the United States is currently facing, such a move would create a dangerous precedent and have disastrous consequences.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and we look forward to hearing from you.

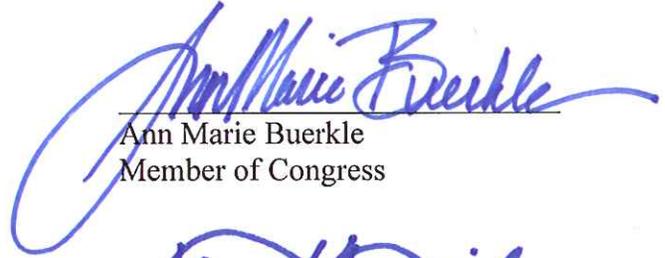
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Flake  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



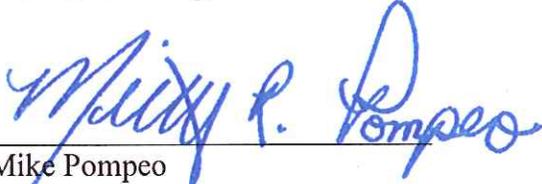
Ann Marie Buerkle  
Member of Congress



Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



Francisco Canseco  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



Timothy V. Johnson  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress