

To sign on to this letter, please have your staff call Sean Moore from Senator Boxer's office (224-3553) or Robert Karem from Senator McConnell's staff (224-2541).

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April , 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We share with you the hope that new possibilities will be presented for peace and security in the Middle East for both Israelis and Palestinians.

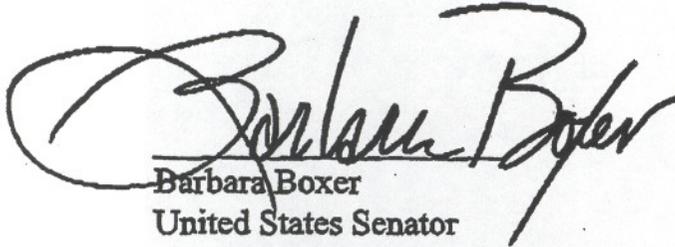
As you work to resume peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, we write to express our support for the guiding principles you outlined in your June 24th speech. These principles are the establishment of a new Palestinian leadership that is transparent, accountable, free from the taint of terrorism, willing and able to dismantle terrorist networks and committed to overhauling the Palestinian security apparatus so that it truly fights terrorism, rather than engages in it. While recent political changes in the Palestinian Authority are a positive step, it is only the start of what is needed for the Palestinian people to begin to see the realization of their political aspirations.

Many are urging you to short circuit this process and to focus on timelines, rather than benchmarks of real performance. Actions – not just promises – are necessary for real progress. As we have learned from recent history, without a new, empowered Palestinian leadership that is firmly committed to fighting terror, there is no one with whom to negotiate and no point in making unilateral concessions.

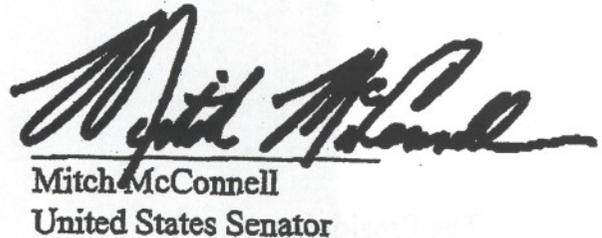
The United States has developed a level of credibility and trust with all parties in the region which no other country shares. In addition, the parties themselves must engage in order for progress to be lasting. Adding other parties, who do not have the confidence of one or more of the principals, will be counter-productive.

In summary, Mr. President, we share your belief that real changes in the Palestinian leadership provide the possibility to once again explore opportunities to bring real peace to that troubled region of the world. Only by holding fast to those principles you outlined in your June 24th speech can we hope to end the 30 months of terror that have lead to nothing but misery for both Israelis and Palestinians.

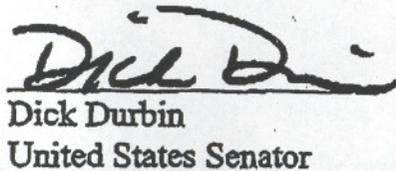
Sincerely,



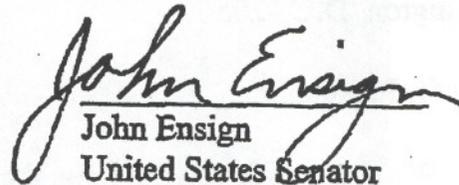
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



Dick Durbin
United States Senator



John Ensign
United States Senator