

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Timothy Geithner
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner:

We write to request immediate action against Lebanon's financial system for its support of Hezbollah. As you know, Hezbollah is a brutal terrorist group responsible for killing hundreds of Americans and recent U.S. measures against Lebanese institutions have exposed the organization's connections to global smuggling and drug trafficking rings. Hezbollah is using its substantial Iranian-supplied financial resources in Lebanon to sustain its illicit activities worldwide, and reports indicate that Hezbollah has made use of elements in the Western Hemisphere to raise or launder additional money.

We recognize the Treasury Department for its effective and efficient efforts against terrorists, drug traffickers, and corrupt financial institutions. We welcomed the action taken against Venezuela's Minister of Defense and other individuals providing services to Hezbollah. The Treasury Department dealt a significant blow to Hezbollah's finances last February when the Lebanese Canadian Bank (LCB) was forced to close because of its ties to the terrorist group. However, examinations of LCB's records show that Hezbollah-linked accounts are epidemic in Lebanon and were likely simply transferred to other banks in the country.

In the interest of U.S. national security and preventing global acts of terrorism, the Treasury Department must move quickly to institute severe penalties against Lebanese banks assisting Hezbollah's terrorist network. Pursuant to Executive Order 13224, the Treasury Department should block the assets of such institutions and prohibit their operations within the U.S. financial system by immediately designating as supporters of terrorism any Lebanese financial institutions aiding Hezbollah. The Treasury Department should also consider labeling Lebanon an area of primary money-laundering concern to help expose those institutions connected to Hezbollah, while providing an important warning for U.S. institutions doing business with Lebanese banks.

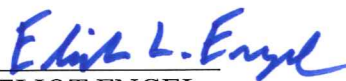
Hezbollah's unchecked access to the world's financial systems dramatically improves its ability to harm the United States and our allies in Israel and across the world. Hezbollah's support in Lebanon is an urgent concern requiring the immediate attention of

the Treasury Department. We look forward to your prompt and aggressive response to this matter.

Sincerely,



CONNIE MACK
Chairman
Western Hemisphere Subcommittee



ELIOT ENGEL
Ranking Member
Western Hemisphere Subcommittee



STEVE CHABOT
Chairman
Middle East and South Asia Subcommittee



BRAD SHERMAN
Ranking Member
Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and
Trade Subcommittee