

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 7, 2023

The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak, MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
Westminster, London
SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

We are saddened by the latest news of the deteriorating negotiations between Greece and the United Kingdom regarding the return of the Parthenon Sculptures to their home city of Athens, where they were created by Pheidias, the greatest sculptor of classical antiquity.

Today we write to you as members of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, urging British officials to return to earnest discussions with Greece over the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures. The return to their historic and natural setting would be lauded and celebrated worldwide, and we call for the resumption of robust negotiations to that end.

The Parthenon is considered the high-water mark of world architecture, and its sculptures and reliefs certainly constitute the paramount point of classical art. The Sculptures from the Acropolis of Athens, Greece have been loved and appreciated in their adoptive home in the British Museum for more than two hundred years, inspiring and edifying millions of visitors. However, it is past time that they return home to be reunified with the rest of the sculptures from which they were ripped apart. This will allow visitors to view and appreciate them in totality as part of a greater whole in their natural and rightful environment. The Acropolis Museum, a state-of-the-art museum, was built for this purpose. It will also contribute to greater historical and cultural understanding of ancient Athens, Classical Greece, and the world wonder that is the Parthenon, the temple dedicated to Athena.

In taking the initiative to return the Sculptures, you would affirm your admiration and respect for the immense legacy of ancient Greece, promote the importance and understanding of history and western values of classical art, and further strengthen Britain's already salutary ties with the Hellenic Republic and the Greek people.

We remain appreciative of your efforts and good will in support of the historic special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States and look forward to strengthening that relationship through the accomplishment of matters such as this. We stand ready to answer any questions and offer our undoubted assistance and support in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



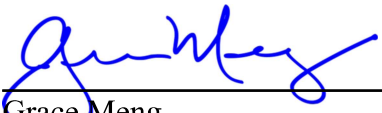
Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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John P. Sarbanes
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Grace Meng
Member of Congress