

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 2, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

As the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, a group of 131 bipartisan Members of Congress, we are pleased about your upcoming visit to Cyprus and Greece and wish to reiterate some issues that should be priorities on this important trip.

In the midst of Europe's continuing refugee and migration crisis, in which nearly 80% of these refugees are arriving on Greece's shores, we believe there is a need for the U.S. to work with both governments to help their border control agencies handle the surge of people seeking to enter their countries. The Caucus recently sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson urging the DHS to explore the ways we can help Greece manage and monitor the daily entry of refugees with technical assistance and practical recommendations. This policy initiative arose at our inaugural *Stand with Greece* Policy Summit recently held at the Capitol. Likewise, we believe it would be beneficial for the United States to assess all diplomatic means to help Greece efficiently evaluate and manage what has become an unprecedented migratory crisis with an acute effect on Greece.

Despite Greece's economic difficulties, the Greek government remains resolute in implementing reforms and intends to conclude all pending issues in an expedient manner. Any reaffirmation during your visit of U.S. support for Greece's continuing assessment, reform, and creation of the necessary conditions for sustainable growth and a stable, healthy Greek economy would be welcome at this crucial time.

With regard to Cyprus, the United Nations-sponsored reunification negotiations between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities continue, and warrant any and all support that the State Department can provide in seeking a sustainable and enduring settlement to reunify Cyprus, including the financial viability of a potential settlement. The United States must continue its work to ensure that the reunification process in Cyprus is tangibly supported by all to achieve a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation on the basis of February 2014 Joint Declaration and UN Resolutions. Cyprus continues to be a critical ally in our fight against terrorism in the Middle East, and we cannot discount the strategic and geographic value that continued national security cooperation with Cyprus provides for the safety of our citizens at home and troops stationed abroad.

Lastly, energy security and diversification of energy sources are issues of top priority that Greece, Cyprus, the European Union, and the United States all share. While every country seeks secure and reliable trading partners, we believe our Eastern Mediterranean allies are uniquely able to enhance their roles as “energy security providers” for Europe. We hope you and your international counterparts can discuss ways that our countries can work together to quickly realize these energy diplomacy opportunities.

These ideas are rooted in the shared principles of democracy and the rule of law that underpin both the United States and our Eastern Mediterranean allies. We wish you safety and success on your visit, and look forward to working with you on these issues in the future.

Sincerely,

  
**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**  
Member of Congress

  
**GUS M. BILIRAKIS**  
Member of Congress