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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

Eight months ago, members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) devolved into conflict at a time when we expected their unity in the face of rising threats from Iran and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. In the hope of adding incentive to the administration's efforts to broker an amicable resolution of the issues dividing some of these nations, I informed you that I would withhold any further clearances during the informal review period on sales of lethal military equipment to the GCC states until we gained a better understanding of the path to reunify the GCC.

Unfortunately, there still isn't a clear path to resolving the GCC rift. Given that weapons sales are part of our security cooperation with these states, I am lifting my blanket hold on sales of lethal military equipment to the GCC and will resume informally clearing those sales if the administration can make the case that that the purchasing state is taking effective steps to combat support for terrorism. It is important to underscore that U.S. weapons sales are intended to strengthen cooperation with U.S. partners and advance U.S. national security interests, and we will continue to evaluate weapons sales on those bases.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker  
Chairman