



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

The Honorable
Bob Corker, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of our efforts to end the ongoing dispute within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). We appreciate the care and scrutiny you have taken during your review of proposed lethal military sales to GCC countries.

We continue to work with our GCC partners to resolve the dispute with Qatar. We have seen some operational improvements over the past year, but regrettably, the parties themselves have yet to lay out a clear way forward. I assure you we maintain our determination to see the dispute resolved and GCC unity restored, as this impasse negatively affects our interests in the region.

As we have often discussed, it is essential that the United States remain a reliable defense partner to the region. Each of the countries involved in the dispute is a strong counterterrorism partner of the United States. For this reason, I appreciate your decision to lift your blanket hold on lethal arms sales to GCC partners.

As you know, our fight against terrorism continues in cooperation with our Gulf partners. We will ensure that proposed sales and transfers to GCC countries advance the security needs of our partners, promote interoperability with U.S. and allied forces, and enhance U.S. national security interests in the region.

Again, I am grateful for your leadership on this important matter. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other initiatives to support peace and security in the Gulf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex W. Tillerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rex W. Tillerson