

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

October 20, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

We write to urge you to exercise your authority to relist North Korea as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. The world looks to the United States to lead in responding to the dangerous nuclear belligerence of Kim Jong-un. Duly relisting his regime as a State Sponsor of Terrorism is an important component of this leadership, as it will further the case for our diplomatic and economic isolation campaign, and underscore the importance of cutting ties with North Korea.

Since North Korea was removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list in 2008, the Kim regime has repeatedly perpetrated or supported heinous acts, the most recent example of which was the illegitimate detention, murderous mistreatment, and tragic death of Otto Warmbier. Before Otto's murder, agents of North Korea assassinated Kim Jong-nam in Malaysia using VX nerve agent. As you know, the willful aiding or abetting of the use or acquisition of chemical weapons is an explicit component of international terrorism under the Arms Export Control Act, one of the authorities authorizing you to designate State Sponsors of Terrorism (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)).

Such acts are not isolated events, but part of a consistent pattern by the Kim regime. For years, North Korea has regularly kidnapped foreign citizens in violation of international law. Since 2008, North Korea has conducted cyber-attacks and cyber-blackmail against civilian targets, attempted assassinations across international borders, and sold arms to terrorist groups. The 115th Congress has repeatedly demonstrated its broad consensus that North Korea should be relisted as a State Sponsor of Terrorism, first by the House's overwhelming passage of H.R. 479, the North Korea State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act, and again by the bicameral passage of H.R.3364, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

H.R.3364, which became law on August 2nd of this year, includes the substance of H.R. 479, which requires you to submit a determination whether North Korea meets the criteria for designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism within 90 days. We look forward to receiving your timely determination and trust that you will give due consideration to the matters discussed herein.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs



TED YOHO  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



BRAD SHERMAN  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Chairman Emeritus  
Committee on Foreign Affairs



WILLIAM KEATING  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Terrorism,  
Nonproliferation, and Trade



BRAD WENSTRUP  
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL  
Member of Congress



DANA ROHRABACHER  
Member of Congress



AMI BERA  
Member of Congress



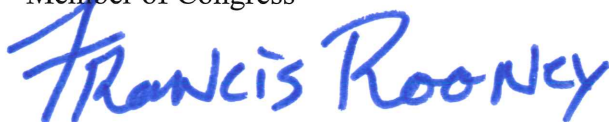
LEE ZELDIN  
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT  
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK  
Member of Congress

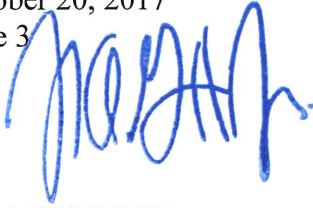


FRANCIS ROONEY  
Member of Congress

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October 20, 2017

Page 3



TOM GARRETT  
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress