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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

August 13, 2009

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
3 Kaplan Street
P.O. Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919
Israel (B)

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

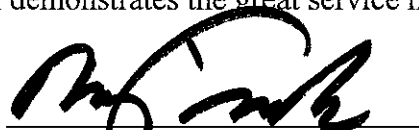
I write because I think it is important that I tell you of the high regard I have for the work that is being done by the Israeli consul general in Boston, Nadav Tamir.

I was sorry to learn that he is being criticized because of his accurate reporting of significant sentiment in the United States, including among many of us who have been and will continue to be firm supporters of an American policy that recognizes the right of Israel to be a strong, free, Jewish democratic state. I think it is important that the government of Israel have a full understanding of the sentiments that may erode that support.

If the people who work for me did not give me the kind of straightforward, thoughtful analysis that the consul is providing, even if it wasn't the most welcome news, that failure -- not the information -- would cause me unhappiness.

My conversations with the consul have ranged widely, and among the topics we have discussed most often are the views of the Israeli government on crucial questions of how to stop Iran's nuclear capacity. Earlier this year, he asked me to attend a meeting at the Israeli consulate, in which a high official of the Israeli government working on this issue discussed with me the steps that were needed for the American government to take. As Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, I have worked closely with the Treasury Department on the implementation of sanctions against Iran, and I was pleased to be informed of the Israeli government's views on this topic, and to be able to take advantage of this information for our common goal of stopping Iran's nuclear threat.

The wide support Nadav Tamir has received from those in our area who are among the strongest and most effective friends of Israel demonstrates the great service he is performing for his country.


Barney Frank
Member of Congress

BF/mr