

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0305**

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

In testimony before the Senate on January 19, 2021, you stated that should you be confirmed as Secretary of State, you would oppose any effort to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Jerusalem back to Tel Aviv. We strongly support this position.

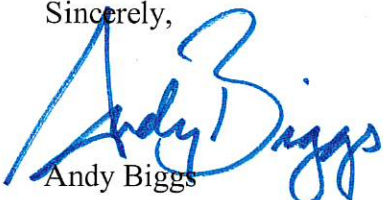
On December 6, 2017, President Donald Trump made history by being the first U.S. leader to officially recognize what Israelis themselves have always known: that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Subsequently, he approved the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, which occurred on May 14, 2018, the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence.

These actions were long overdue. In 1995, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act, which required the United States to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the embassy there by May 31, 1999. However, that law also gave President Bill Clinton and every subsequent president the authority to indefinitely postpone moving the embassy if he could claim a national security reason for delay. Over the next two decades, the option of moving the embassy would come before the president every six months, and each time it would be delayed until the Trump administration finally ended the stalling.

President Trump predicted early in his administration that building a special bond with Israel would pay great dividends for the United States—and he was right. The goodwill forged between our two nations almost certainly eased other important foreign achievements, including the pathbreaking Abraham Accords, which upended decades of sectarian animosity.

Effective foreign policy begins with an acknowledgement of reality and proper respect for allies. Israel has been our nation's strongest ally in the Middle East and a linchpin of regional security for decades. By continuing to honor our commitment to keep the embassy in Israel's "eternal capital" we ensure continued goodwill as our two nations confront the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs  
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