

ALLEN B. WEST
22ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA
1708 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0922
202-225-3026
FAX 202-225-8398

6300 NE 1ST AVENUE, SUITE 100
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33334
954-202-6211
FAX 954-202-6212

3111 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 308
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33405
561-655-1943
FAX 561-655-8018



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0922

July 19, 2012

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Mr. Danny Danon
Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem, IL 91950

Dear Deputy Speaker Danon:

Thank you for your letter dated July 18, 2012 detailing the findings of the Committee to Examine the Status of Building in Judea and Samaria.

While the Committee detailed that Israel is not an occupation force in the region, I did not need this Committee's report to tell me that which in my heart, I have always known to be true.

These communities in Judea and Samaria are living, breathing and vibrant area's filled with artistic murals and vast gardens. It only takes a rigid ideologue to continue to term this area as a settlement or occupation-style living areas.

Since I was a young boy, I have had a love of the land of Israel, and have always felt it was my spiritual home. And since that time, I have always known the Land, designated in the Old Testament, was the land of the Jewish People.

No one will ever take this love for Israel from my heart, and I will always continue to fight for lasting peace for my Israeli brethren.

However, it is a fact that the relationship with the United States and Israel is threatened more today than ever before in our history. Today, I question whether the current Administration would fully support an Israeli military offensive to protect the nation.

I have since cosponsored legislation in the United States House of Representatives that would state that is the Sense of Congress that it is Israel's right to annex Judea and Samaria in the event that the Palestinian Authority continues to press for unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations.

A United Nations recognized Palestinian state would potentially put Israelis directly under the sovereignty of a group of people that have sworn the destruction of Israel and its people. This is unacceptable, and in the absence of a negotiated peace agreement, Israel has the right to protect its citizens living in Judea and Samaria by annexing those territories.

You can always count on my continued support for building Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria. Please keep me informed as to all you are doing for the betterment of the Jewish people and their homeland Israel.

Steadfast and Loyal,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen B. West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Allen B. West
Member of Congress