



ROBERT WEXLER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Dear Turkish American Community Leaders:

I want to congratulate Turkish Americans on the historic occasion of the 85th Anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. This momentous event is not only a day to recognize Turkey's anniversary as a nation -- it is also an opportunity to highlight the invaluable contributions of the Turkish American community to the fabric and success of the United States.

I want to thank the leadership of the Turkish American community as well as all Turkish Americans for playing a critical role in enhancing our nation's democracy, economy and way of life. As Ambassadors of the United States to Turkey and vice-versa, Turkish Americans are the linchpin in our mutual effort to strengthen American-Turkish relations.

As the Chairman of the Caucus on U.S.-Turkish relations and the Congressional Study Group on Turkey, I want to join you in offering my heartfelt support for the American-Turkish partnership that has grown stronger over the past six decades. As a U.S. ally and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Member, Turkey has distinguished itself as an indispensable contributor to both regional and global security, stability and prosperity, with participation in key international institutions, missions and operations.

Turkey's leadership, forward thinking policies and strong democracy have put it on a path towards membership in the European Union. I fully support Turkey's efforts to join the EU and will continue to urge the Bush Administration and the next Administration to firmly support the Turkish people in this endeavor. It is also essential that U.S.-Turkish cooperation grows as Washington and Ankara deal with grave international challenges. Turkey is an indispensable partner of the U.S. and is key to progress in the Middle East, the Southern Caucasus, the Black Sea region and beyond.

Our nations' bilateral relations have evolved into an unbreakable bond of friendship and alliance, with origins tracing back to the Truman Doctrine's commitment to ensuring Turkey's security and independence in 1947. Since that time, American and Turkish soldiers fought alongside each other and international forces in the Korean War,

PALM BEACH COUNTY:
2500 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL
SUITE 490
BOCA RATON, FL 33431
(561) 988-6302
(561) 988-6423 FAX

WASHINGTON, DC:
2241 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3001
(202) 225-5974 FAX

BROWARD COUNTY:
MARGATE CITY HALL
5790 MARGATE BLVD.
MARGATE, FL 33063
(954) 972-6454
(954) 974-3191 FAX

WEST PALM BEACH:
(561) 732-4000

WWW.WEXLER.HOUSE.GOV

cooperated closely throughout the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, and today U.S. and Turkish troops stand shoulder to shoulder against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. United States-Turkish cooperation in the global war on terror is at the highest level and the U.S. military is currently using the Turkish airbase at Incirlik to provide U.S. troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan with vital logistical and material support.

The United States and Turkey also cooperate closely on the critical issue of combating PKK insurgents and terrorists who ruthlessly threaten and kill Turkish civilians. The United States and Turkey share the common understanding that terrorism is unacceptable and the U.S. is committed to ending the PKK threat and to providing assistance and actionable intelligence with Turkey's armed forces until these vicious attacks end.

Again, it is my honor to join Turkish Americans as they celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. I look forward to working closely with the Turkish American community and its leadership to foster the U.S.-Turkish relationship and build a stronger future for the United States and Turkey.

With warm regards,


Robert Wexler

Member of Congress
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Europe