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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 26, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

I could not have been more pleased with the President's recent trip to Saudi Arabia. The unity of the Gulf States and their commitment to security cooperation were welcome steps forward. We need to remain united in the face of rising threats from Iran and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

I agree with and support the joint statement issued by the United States and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), specifically the commitments to "ease regional conflicts," "strengthen partnership frameworks," establish "deeper security cooperation," and "strengthen and support economic relations."

Unfortunately, the GCC did not take advantage of the summit and instead chose to devolve into conflict. All countries in the region need to do more to combat terrorism, but recent disputes among the GCC countries only serve to hurt efforts to fight ISIS and counter Iran. For these reasons, before we provide any further clearances during the informal review period on sales of lethal military equipment to the GCC states, we need a better understanding of the path to resolve the current dispute and reunify the GCC.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker
Chairman