

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request that your Administration suspend talks related to a potential civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Prior to the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, we already held serious reservations about negotiations for such an agreement. In particular, we remain concerned that the Saudi Government has refused, for many years, to consider any agreement that includes so-called “Gold Standard” requirements against pursuing technologies to enrich uranium and reprocess plutonium-laden spent nuclear fuel.

As you know, the 2009 civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and the United Arab Emirates created this “Gold Standard” when the Emirates committed not to pursue uranium enrichment, plutonium reprocessing, and other nuclear fuel-making activities that can bring a nation within weeks of producing a nuclear weapon. Given your Administration’s ongoing efforts to press the Iranian regime—in the words of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo—to “stop enrichment and never pursue plutonium reprocessing,” we have long believed that it is therefore critical and necessary for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to accept and uphold this “Gold Standard” for responsible nuclear behavior.

The ongoing revelations about the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as well as certain Saudi actions related to Yemen and Lebanon, have raised further serious concerns about the transparency, accountability, and judgment of current decisionmakers in Saudi Arabia. In turn, these serious questions have solidified our reservations about pursuing a potential U.S. civil nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia, and increased our willingness to advance, consistent with procedures in the *Atomic Energy Act of 1954*, a joint resolution of disapproval to block any such agreement at this time. We therefore request that you suspend any related negotiations for a U.S.-Saudi civil nuclear agreement for the foreseeable future.

We thank you for your attention, and stand ready to engage with your Administration on this matter.

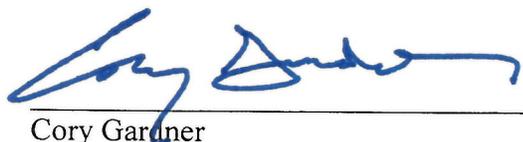
Sincerely,



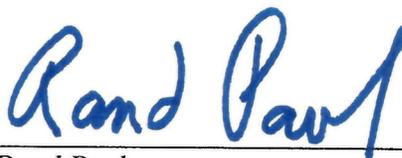
Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



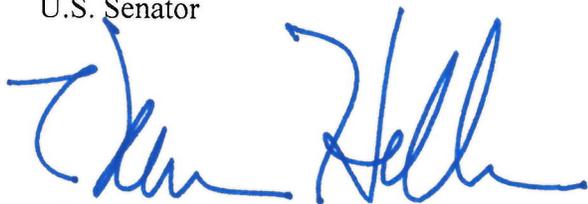
Todd Young
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator



Rand Paul
U.S. Senator



Dean Heller
U.S. Senator