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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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January 17, 2019

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Engel:

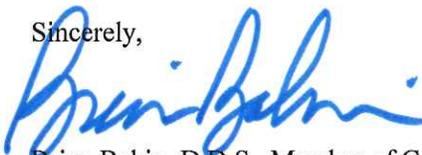
I am writing to express my extreme concern that a newly elected Member of Congress, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, has plans to lead a taxpayer-funded Congressional delegation (CODEL) to Palestine¹. This action, from an outspoken supporter of the "BDS" Israeli boycott movement and whose personal vitriol led her to publicly brag about calling our President a "mother****er" to her young son, is both ill-conceived and inconsistent with our national values.

Israel is of vital importance to U.S. interests in the Middle East, a fact widely acknowledged on both sides of the aisle. Since Israel's beginnings, our nations have pursued strong relations based on common values, providing mutual security in the region and helping to spread democratic practices. The mere prospect of a CODEL like this threatens that relationship. Allowed to proceed, this action could undo years of goodwill built by the foreign policy and Israeli-American communities. To signal to our most threatened ally in the region that the United States Congress sanctions an official trip to visit Israel's nemesis would be an exceedingly dangerous path forward.

Notwithstanding the potential damage to the U.S.-Israel relationship, it seems to be a gross misappropriation of taxpayer dollars to contribute to, however indirectly, a belligerent group and its affiliates that directly oppose the interests of the United States.

For the reasons above, please deny Rep. Tlaib's request to sponsor and lead a CODEL to Palestine and exercise your authority as Chair to deny your consent to any member of your committee who seeks your approval to participate in such a misadventure. Please consider the damage that a yet unexperienced and overly caustic Member of Congress may cause to Israeli relations, or the perceptions of our own Jewish-American citizens.

Sincerely,



Brian Babin, D.D.S., Member of Congress

¹Alfaro, Mariana. "Rashida Tlaib, the first Palestinian-American member of Congress, will lead a delegation to the West Bank." *The Business Insider*, December 5, 2018, <https://www.businessinsider.com/rashida-tlaib-newly-elected-congresswoman-will-lead-delegation-to-palestine-west-bank-2018-12>.

CC: Rep. Pelosi, Speaker of the House,
Rep. Rashida Tlaib