

Support Appropriations for Azerbaijan for FY25



Tavlárides, Mark
To Tavlárides, Mark



Mon 4/22/2024 12:42 PM

Good afternoon,

BGR Group represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has been a critical supporter of U.S. interests in an incredibly challenging part of the world. As you may be aware, Azerbaijan has played a critical role in counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, and non-proliferation efforts along their extensive border with Iran, all while closely embracing the U.S.'s ally, Israel. Israeli-Azerbaijani relations stretch back to Azerbaijan's independence, over 30 years ago, and Azerbaijan has received direct threats over their close relationship, including assassination attempts and terrorist attacks on diplomatic missions.

In addition to Azerbaijan's close support for Israel, they have been a critical partner in the U.S.'s efforts to confront Russian aggression in Ukraine. Azerbaijan has mobilized substantial humanitarian resources for Ukraine, supporting through the delivery of supplies, energy access, and telecommunications services, and more. Azerbaijan has also been a critical supporter of European energy independence, helping to break Russia's leverage over the EU.

Azerbaijan has been a crucial ally to the U.S., supporting the U.S. missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, forming a bulwark against Iranian malfeasance, deepening its engagement with Israel, and more recently, rapidly expanding its energy exports to Europe to counter Russian leverage in energy markets. At this time, as Azerbaijan takes significant risks to support the people of Ukraine and across Europe against Russian aggression, and as it is meaningfully engaged in a delicate peace process, it is more important than ever that U.S. appropriators move with careful intention.

In addition to Azerbaijan's support for U.S. strategic interests, it also has a deep and rich relationship with the state of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma-Azerbaijan National Guard Partnership, launched in 2003, has been an important program building deep relations between Oklahoma City and Baku, supporting interoperability while balancing relations with Russia and Iran. **Given these facts, and the risks Azerbaijan has undertaken on behalf of U.S. interests, we request your boss signs on to the below quill link in support of an FY25 Appropriations request for Azerbaijan.**

Quill Link:

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

All my best,
Mark

Mark J. Tavlárides
Principal, International
BGR Government Affairs, LLC

BGR | GROUP
WASHINGTON - AUSTIN - ATLANTA - LONDON

The Homer Building
11th Floor South
601 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Direct: 202.661.6375
mtavlarides@bgrdc.com
www.bgrdc.com
[Check us out on LinkedIn](#)

Note: BGR Government Affairs, LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

FY25 Azerbaijan Letter (SFOPS)

Sending Office: Honorable Steve Cohen
Sent By: Rachel.Citron@mail.house.gov

Support Azerbaijan SFOPS Request

[Quill Link](#)

I invite you to join me in sending the attached letter to the House Appropriations on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee Chair Mario Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Barbara Lee regarding support for Azerbaijan.

This appropriation request asks for \$15 million for demining efforts in the conflict-affected regions of Azerbaijan in the Fiscal Year 2025 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. Azerbaijan has been a long-standing partner of the U.S., cooperating on multiple fronts from fighting against terrorism and drug trafficking, to preventing nuclear proliferation, to stabilizing the wider Caspian region.

As threats in the region increase, it is vital for the United States to explore opportunities for further assistance in border security, maritime security, and non-proliferation to Azerbaijan.

For more information, please contact Rachel Citron in Congressman Steve Cohen's office at Rachel.Citron@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohen

Member of Congress

April XX, 2024

Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart
Committee on Appropriations

Ranking Member Barbara Lee
Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
HT-2, The Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

State, Foreign Operations
1016 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide the support and the resources to secure a long-lasting peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia who, we believe, are ready to build a region of peace and prosperity.

The region has long been ravaged by conflict, but now there is a chance for peace. The United States should support peace conversations, and we believe U.S. investment in humanitarian demining and in future economic development would build on the momentum of these talks.

We are asking for \$15 million to be provided for the elimination of mines in the conflict-affected regions of Azerbaijan. Without this help, civilians can never safely move back to their villages and farmlands.

Azerbaijan has been a long-standing partner of the U.S., cooperating on multiple fronts from fighting against terrorism and drug trafficking, to preventing nuclear proliferation, to stabilizing the wider Caspian region. President Biden recently wrote that “the partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States has helped advance prosperity across the region.”

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated in Baku this March that Azerbaijan plays an important role for the resilience of NATO societies. Azerbaijan is a key partner in replenishing the potential energy shortage in Europe that may occur from Russian aggression against Ukraine. Moreover, Azerbaijan continues to be a major energy supplier for our mutual ally Israel, despite open threats and covert action by Iran.

As threats in the region increase, especially those towards energy infrastructure in the Caspian Sea, it is vital for the United States to explore opportunities for further assistance in border security, maritime security, and non-proliferation to Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, it is worth noting that Azerbaijan continues to provide significant humanitarian aid to Ukraine, an exception among former Soviet non-NATO countries that led Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to publicly thank the President of Azerbaijan for this courageous step.

In this context, we believe that any U.S. assistance or humanitarian aid programming for areas within the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan should be coordinated with or run through the Government of Azerbaijan. It is important that any program in these territories is in line with the United States’ support for the principle of internationally recognized territorial integrity.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,