



Ambassador

*Embassy of Turkey
Washington, D. C.*

October 25, 2019

Dear Representative,

As you may recall, I had extensively shared Turkey's concerns and the profound disappointment regarding the H. Res. 296, "Affirming the United States record on the Armenian genocide".

The resolution is expected to be discussed in the Committee on Rules on October 28, 2019. Following this discussion, I understand that it might be voted on the floor of the House of Representatives next week.

Similar to the ones that were introduced during the previous sessions of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 296, which also solely reflects the biased Armenian narrative, would not be helpful to promote an atmosphere of reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia.

Turkey has made important efforts in addressing its history and in seeking a common ground with Armenia. Our archives are open and available without any restrictions for all to study. Furthermore, with a view to reviewing past events, we proposed the establishment of a Joint Historical Commission with the involvement of scholars from Turkey, Armenia as well as international academia. Turkey's efforts to reach a just and common understanding with the Armenians on the tragic events of 1915, which occurred during the great human sufferings of World War I, will continue unabatedly.

It should not be disregarded that counterproductive initiatives, such as H. Res. 296, will considerably poison the political environment between Turkey and the United States, at a time when regional and international developments require extensive collaboration and cooperation between our two countries more than ever before.

On the other hand, our economic cooperation has proven to be of critical importance. Turkey's significant growth over the past years, propelling her to become a G-20 nation, has undoubtedly benefited the US economy, as well. Turkey and the United States share a valued economic partnership that sustains thousands of American jobs. Not only is Turkey an export market for a substantial number of prominent US companies. Turkish companies have also significantly invested in the United States, in particular in Connecticut, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, and many other states and provide employment to considerable number of American citizens.

Currently, upon the instructions by our Presidents, we are exploring ways to increase our trade volume to 100 billion US Dollars in the near future. The recent visit of Secretary of Commerce to Turkey provided fresh impetus not only to our economic relations, but to our bilateral cooperation in general, as well.

In this respect, please also note that legislations such as H. Res. 296 deeply disturbs and alienates the Turkish American community in the United States. We are concerned that increasing number of initiatives that harbor baseless claims against Turkey could create a strong resentment among hundreds of thousands of Turkish American voters.

Does the United States Congress really want to take sides in a century old historical discussion against a NATO ally; particularly in this period, when closer relations between Turkey and the United States are imperative to global and regional stability and peace?

I would like to strongly encourage you to keep these important facts in mind and remember the importance of the continued Turkey-US partnership, before a possible House vote regarding the disputed and controversial events of 1915. Moreover, I call upon you not to play a part in creating a permanent negative resentment in our historically close and friendly relations, but rather to contribute to efforts aimed at the further improvement of this critical partnership, which serves to advance and protect our countries' national security and economic interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Serdar Kılıç', written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Serdar Kılıç

This material is distributed by Venable LLP on behalf of the Republic of Turkey. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.