

Letter To The Editor

Tracy Wilkinson's September 29<sup>th</sup> article, '[Washington boosts support for Greece in spat with Turkey](#)', asserts that the Trump Administration and US lawmakers are pumping up ties with Greece at the expense of relations with Turkey. Your article ignores significant recent boosts in US-Turkey ties, leaving a reader with a misunderstanding of the dynamics at play.

In September alone, US policymakers expressed outspoken support for Turkey, particularly focused on trade relations. During the recent American Turkish Conference, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross underlined his desire for new commercial deals and re-committed the US to reaching the ambitious \$100 billion bilateral trade target set by Presidents Trump and Erdogan. At a Turkish-US Business Council event on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) advocated for Turkey as an alternative to China in the global supply chain shakeup. Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA) voiced support for a US-Turkey LNG partnership, saying, "Turkey is primed to become a significant natural gas pipeline and to have American LNG as a part of that formula is a wise move ... This consideration is reflective of the very best leadership and most courageous decision making that we are witnessing out of the region, out of Turkey."

These are examples of a trend that undermines the thrust of your article: ties between the US and Turkey are strengthening. Shared interests and goals are overcoming recent challenges, in favor of cooperation. Rep. Higgins put it best, "It's a testament to both of our nations that we sometimes have disagreements. This is the reality when you have strong, courageous leadership at the helm."

From Merih Kepez, Deputy Secretary-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey

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