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**From:** Dyer, Jim  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:54 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose S.Res.540, a Measure Undermining U.S. Relations with a Key Security Partner: Azerbaijan  
**Attachments:** From Joseph R. Biden President of the United States of America Official web-site of President of Azerbaijan Republic.pdf

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Wanted you to have a copy of this . Best, Jim

Good afternoon,

BGR Group Represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. I write to you today to raise serious concerns with [S.Res.540](#), a resolution that could potentially end a 30 year partnership between the U.S. and Azerbaijan. This resolution is an unfortunate effort to try to circumvent the setting of U.S. foreign policy, and should not be pursued due to risks to U.S. posture and interests in a very complicated region of the world.

Sharing a border with two destabilizing countries, Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has been committed to cooperation with the U.S. In recent years, Azerbaijan deployed troops to assist with the securing of the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan during the withdrawal, remaining in country to support U.S. evacuation efforts even when all Azerbaijani citizens had left. Azerbaijan has also been a bulwark against trafficking out of Iran, becoming an invaluable partner on non-proliferation and counter-narcotics.

Azerbaijan's support of U.S. interests has inflicted costs on the country as well. Azerbaijan and Israel have a long-standing, positive relationship of 30 years, since Azerbaijan's independence. Through U.S. support, Azerbaijan set out to expand this partnership – resulting in a terrorist attack on an Azerbaijani foreign mission in 2023, and the attempted assassination of an anti-Iran lawmaker following Israeli President Isaac Herzog's travel to Azerbaijan. While in Azerbaijan, Herzog [noted](#) that "The relations between our nations are a model for other countries who choose the path of peace and cooperation, and an example of friendly relations between Muslims and Jews," emphasizing the important leadership role Azerbaijan plays in the region.

In addition to Azerbaijan's support for U.S. interests in a challenging region, it has played a crucial role in pushing back on Russian malfeasance. Azerbaijan has been a stalwart supporter of Ukraine – even receiving threats from within the Russian Duma for its support – dispatching the most aid out of any post-Soviet nation. In addition to support for Ukrainian emergency services' energy needs, the dispatchment of humanitarian aid, and its support for Ukrainian civilian and security telecommunications, Azerbaijan has been a critical partner for the EU in establishing European energy security, helping to break the bloc's reliance on Russian energy.

Azerbaijan has received substantial praise for these efforts, including from Ukrainian President [Zelensky](#) and European Commission President [Ursula von der Leyen](#) for its efforts to support Ukraine and counter Russian energy leverage. In addition, President Biden wrote in the attached letter to Azerbaijan President Aliyev that "Azerbaijan is playing a key role in helping secure and stabilize European and global markets." Biden also noted that Azerbaijan's support for Ukraine's sovereignty as well as its "humanitarian and energy assistance to Ukraine is sending an important message."

In light of these sacrifices Azerbaijan has made to support U.S. interests, sacrifices made with two of America's most formidable adversaries on their border, a move to disrupt decades of U.S. foreign policy without regular order is a slap in

the face to a strong partner of the U.S. It sends a particularly unhelpful signal to other countries seeking to leave Russia's orbit, signals Southeast Asian nations follow closely when considering their approach to the U.S.-China competition.

A resolution under Section 502B(c) has not passed the Senate since 1979, with all other attempts – including a recent attempt filed against Israel – failing, a recognition of the extreme nature of this step. **Given Azerbaijan's support for U.S. interests and security, I urge you to vote against S.Res.540.**

If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to connect you with relevant Embassy officials.

Thank you for your consideration,

[Check us out on LinkedIn](#)

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Official web-site of President of Azerbaijan Republic

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## From Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America

20 may 2022, 19:57

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His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the American people, I congratulate you and the people of Azerbaijan on your Independence Day.

This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Our cooperation on energy diversification and international security over the last three decades is bearing fruit at a critical moment in history, and Azerbaijan is playing a key role in helping secure and stabilize European and global markets. Azerbaijan's support for Ukraine's sovereignty as well as your humanitarian and energy assistance to Ukraine is sending an important message. We also appreciate your vital contributions to the global fight against terrorism.

Now is also a moment of hope with an important opportunity to build lasting peace in the South Caucasus. The United States is ready to help intensify diplomatic engagement between Azerbaijan and Armenia and to help Azerbaijan develop the economic, transportation, and people-to-people connections that will enable the entire Caucasus and trans-Caspian region to prosper. We continue to encourage Azerbaijan to take meaningful steps toward democratic governance and reforms that protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Azerbaijanis.

During this period of global instability, as Russia's war on Ukraine seeks to erode the core pillars of international security, the United States reaffirms its support for Azerbaijan's independence and sovereignty. We look forward to enhancing our relationship in the years and decades to come.

My best wishes to the people of Azerbaijan.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden

President of the United States of America

Official web-site of President of Azerbaijan Republic

[www.president.az](http://www.president.az)