



14 March 2024

The Honorable Joe Wilson

Chairman, Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia Subcommittee

U.S. House of Representatives

1436 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wilson,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the private dinner hosted by Ross Perot Jr. in Washington recently. I would like to express my gratitude for your support and commitment to the people of Kurdistan.

We are proud to be a longstanding ally of the United States. Our partnership is rooted in shared values, shared interests, and a shared history of sacrifice. I look forward to continuing to strengthen and deepen our cooperation.

As I explained, our shared interests are under threat. We must, once again, confront these challenges together. The continuous assaults on both US and Kurdish interests highlight the necessity for collaboration in upholding peace, freedom, and stability in the region. To guarantee a prosperous and secure future for Iraq, it is essential to bolster the strength and economic sustainability of the Kurdistan Region. By supporting a robust Kurdistan, we can contribute significantly to the overall stability and viability of Iraq and the region.

Our numerous challenges, from the disruptions to Kurdish oil exports, unresolved budget issues with Baghdad, and the erosion of democratic institutions influenced by malign state-backed militias, demand our collective attention and action. It is more



important now than ever to expedite the delivery of Congressionally mandated air defense equipment to the Kurdistan Region included in the FY 2024 NDAA legislation. Kurdistan needs the capability to protect itself against rising security threats. The air defense systems would also protect your forces and the international diplomatic presence in Kurdistan.

We have worked too hard and spent too much blood and treasure together to let such gains disappear at the behest of regional autocratic regimes. Your commitment to our shared values and your tireless efforts to address our common challenges is critically important to ensure a brighter future. I look forward to continuing to work together to overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

Once again, thank you for your support and for your dedication to democracy. You have an open invitation to visit Kurdistan. We would be honored to host you at a convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

*M. M. Barzani*

Masrour Barzani