

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to strongly urge the Administration to use every available diplomatic tool to halt the advancement of settlement construction in the E-1 area of the West Bank. This matter has reached a critical and final inflection point. The Israeli government has approved construction plans, published construction tenders, and is on the verge of accepting bids and exchanging contracts. Once construction begins, the damage will be irreversible. The window for meaningful diplomatic intervention is closing rapidly, and we believe it is not too late for the United States to act.

The E-1 area is a 12 square-kilometer corridor east of Jerusalem. Construction of a settlement there would bisect the West Bank by severing the north from the south and cutting off Palestinian communities in Ramallah from those in Bethlehem, while completing an unbroken band of Israeli-controlled territory from Jerusalem through E-1 to the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. In doing so, it would cement Israeli sovereignty over the geographic heart of the West Bank.

The situation has accelerated dramatically in recent months. Following approval of the residential plans in August 2025, Prime Minister Netanyahu signed a development agreement committing NIS 3 billion in infrastructure funding for Ma'ale Adumim and E-1.¹ In December 2025, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing published a tender for all 3,401 planned housing units, with bids expected to open June 1, 2026.² In March 2026, the Israel Land Authority separately published a tender for a new employment and commercial zone in E-1, also expected to open for bids imminently. Simultaneously, the Israeli Ministry of Defense has announced plans to pave a "Sovereignty Road" that would permanently divert all Palestinian vehicle traffic away from E-1, effectively sealing off approximately three percent of the West Bank from Palestinian access and enabling the displacement of dozens of Palestinian Bedouin communities who live there.

Most recently, on May 19, 2026 Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich ordered the Civil Administration to begin proceedings to demolish the Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar, which lies adjacent to the E-1 area, in preparation of anticipated settlement construction.

¹ <https://peacenow.org.il/en/e1-employment-tender>

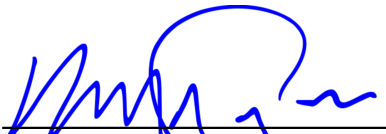
² <https://peacenow.org.il/en/e1-construction-tender>

Smotrich's order underscores that the Israeli government is intent on advancing settlements in E-1 imminently. These steps are mutually reinforcing and are being advanced concurrently and urgently, a coordinated effort to establish irreversible facts on the ground.

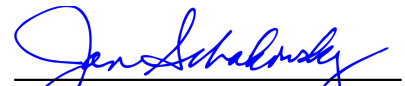
President Trump has repeatedly claimed to oppose Israeli annexation of the West Bank. In September 2025, he declared publicly: "I will not allow Israel to annex the West Bank. Nope. I will not allow it. It's not going to happen." The President has also made non-annexation of the West Bank a foundational commitment of his 20-point peace plan. As recently as February of this year, the White House reiterated that "President Trump has clearly stated that he does not support Israel annexing the West Bank." Construction in E-1 is annexation in its clearest form. We urge this administration to take meaningful action to back up this rhetoric.

We strongly urge the State Department to communicate clearly and at the highest levels that the United States views the acceptance of these construction bids as a direct contradiction of the President's stated policy, and that you use every diplomatic tool at your disposal to halt this process before any bids are awarded.

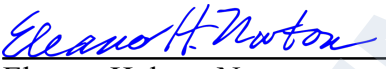
Sincerely,




Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



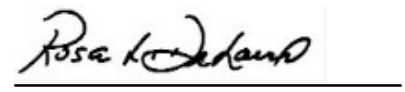
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



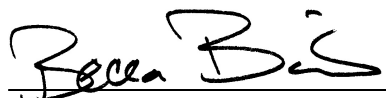
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



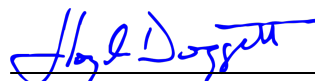
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



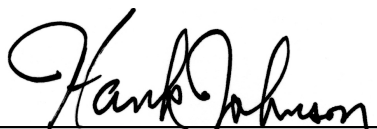
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



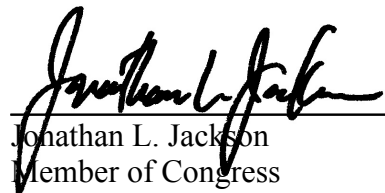
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
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Betty McCollum
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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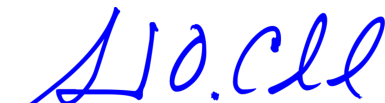
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Danny K. Davis
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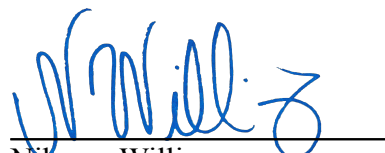
John Garamendi
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Salud Carbajal
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Jerrold Nadler
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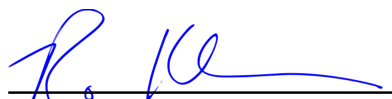
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



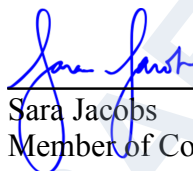
Mark DeSaulnier
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Gwen S. Moore
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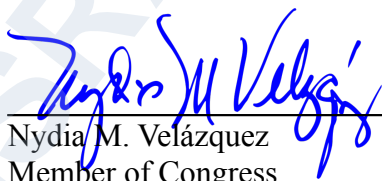
Ro Khanna
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Sara Jacobs
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Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



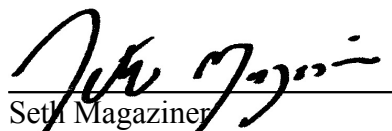
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
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Seth Magaziner
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Chellie Pingree
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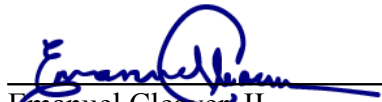
Veronica Escobar
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Steve Cohen
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Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress




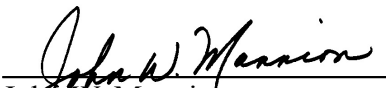
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

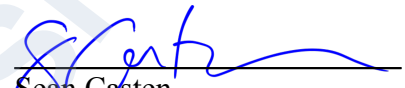

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

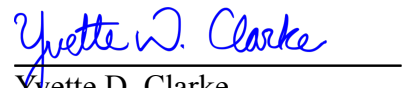

Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress

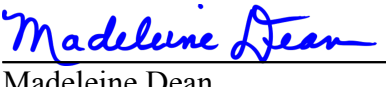

Andrea Salinas
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John W. Mannion
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Sean Casten
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Mike Levin
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Madeleine Dean
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

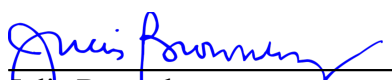

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

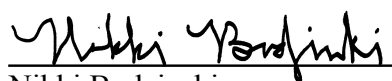

Calmonica McIver
Member of Congress

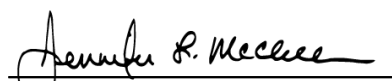

Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
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Chris Deluzio
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Bill Foster
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Joe Courtney
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Analilia Mejia
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Yasamin Ansari
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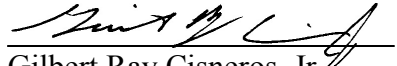

Adelita S. Grijalva
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Nellie Pou
Member of Congress

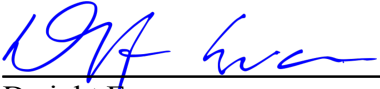

Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



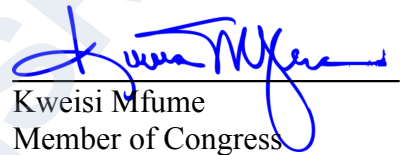
Dwight Evans
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Chris Pappas
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Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



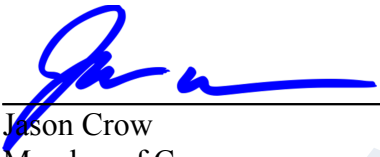
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



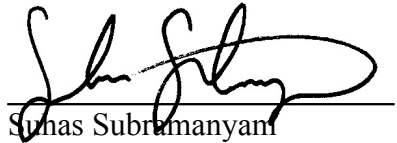
Adriano Espaillat
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MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



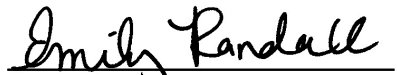
Jason Crow
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Suhas Subramanyam
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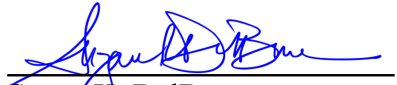
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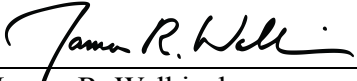
Emily Randall
Member of Congress

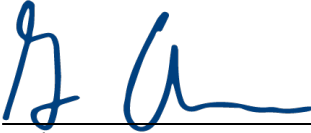


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



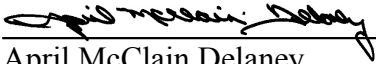
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