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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

June 7, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my support for your decision to provide some direct aid to the Palestinian Authority. I regret the fact that my congressional colleagues imposed restrictions on your ability to act in the critical matter of the Middle East peace process with appropriate flexibility. I believe that doing what we can to see that Mahmoud Abbas has the necessary support to do what is required to bring about peace is very much in the interest of all parties, Israel very much among them. And while we have no guarantee that he will be able to do this, I regret the fact that my colleagues put obstacles in the way of your doing what is likeliest to bring about such a result.

Had there been a vote on these restrictions on your flexibility in this matter, I would have voted against them, and I therefore write to express my support for your providing some direct aid and my willingness to oppose any further restrictions of this sort, which seem to be counter-productive and in fact directly in contrast to the best interests of Israel.


BARNEY FRANK