Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2007

Congressman James P. Moran
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Jim,

We were disappointed in your recently published statements about AIPAC, Iraq and the Jewish community. Your assertions are irresponsible and have absolutely no basis in fact.

The idea that the war in Iraq began because of the influence of Jewish Americans is factually incorrect and unfortunately fits the anti-Semitic stereotypes some have used historically against Jews. The leading proponents of the war, including President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld and Colin Powell, and a majority of the U.S. Congress, were not Jewish. AIPAC as an organization never took a position on the war and none of us were ever lobbied by the organization on the war in Iraq. A number of the signatories of this letter voted against the war at the outset and many of us have voted against funding the war and for withdrawing our troops.

Despite these facts, you claimed in 2003 that "If it were not for the strong support of the Jewish community for this war with Iraq, we would not be doing this." That recklessly groundless comment sparked a firestorm of criticism then. Now you say it was the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) that has "pushed this war from the beginning." Yesterday, you claimed the tone of your remarks was "unnecessarily harsh," but you stood by your statement that AIPAC does not represent "mainstream American Jewish opinion."

AIPAC is an organization of Americans, Jewish and non-Jewish, that support the continuation of the close relationship between the United States and the State of Israel. We believe the U.S. should stand by Israel, which is the only democracy in the Middle East, a faithful ally of the U.S., and a country that has been victimized by terrorists and others that seek to eliminate it. We are confident that the overwhelming opinion of all Americans supports this view as well.

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As Jewish colleagues, we don't understand your hostility to AIPAC or your determination to embarrass yourself with this series of inaccurate, illogical and inflammatory comments. But we find them deeply offensive and call on you to retract your statements. They have no place in the House Democratic Caucus.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Ron Klein
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress

Jane Harman
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress