

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in strong support of the United States (U.S.) alliance with the Republic of Korea (South Korea). The U.S. and South Korea share a long history of friendship and cooperation based on shared values and interests. The U.S.-South Korea Mutual Defense Treaty, signed in October 1953, is effective at safeguarding and advancing US and South Korea's security interests, in particular through enforcing the Armistice Agreement and protecting South Korea from any threats posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Under the leadership of President Moon Jae-in, our ally South Korea has determined its security interests are best served by engaging in a process of reconciliation and reducing tensions with North Korea, a position that polls show is overwhelmingly supported by the South Korean people. We strongly believe that the US should remain steadfast in its partnership with South Korea and continue our longstanding efforts to protect and advance the security interests of both ourselves and our ally.

We are supportive of your efforts to engage diplomatically with North and South Korea, and are encouraged, even with the breakdown in talks in Hanoi, that that diplomatic efforts appear to be ongoing and that discussions are taking place to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

As the U.S.-North Korea contacts continue, however, we believe there are steps you can take to support our ally South Korea in their own diplomatic process with North Korea, in particular, their efforts to strengthen cross-border business ties between their two countries. As a businessman yourself, you are aware of the power that business has in creating bonds between people, interconnecting economies by promoting mutual benefit, and reducing the potential for conflict.

We are concerned that, rather than facilitating these business ties, some in your Administration reportedly took steps to block the South Korean government from engaging in any such economic cooperation with North Korea. We urge you to seriously consider revising this approach – to the extent sought by South Korea and in accordance with U.S. national security interests – and to do everything in your power to ensure that our close ally can pursue the cross-border initiatives they deem necessary. This will advance not only their national security

interests by building trust with North Korea but our security interests as well, with the ultimate goal of resolving the nuclear crisis and creating a peaceful Korean Peninsula.

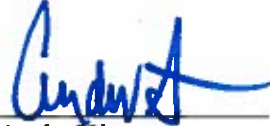
As Members of the U.S. Congress, we stand ready to support any steps you may take to facilitate the expansion of cross-border business ties that are sought by South Korea.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress