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United States Senate

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February 1, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

Congratulations on being confirmed as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of State. Serving as Secretary of State is a great honor and I look forward to working with you to protect our national security and advance U.S. interests around the world.

I am confident that you will work to restore the relationships between the United States, Israel, and our allies around the globe that have been severely fractured over the past several years. Your stated opposition to U.N. Resolution 2334 and the unprecedented abstention by the U.S. serves as a great example of changes that will be made relative to the previous administration. Whether it is the ongoing conflict in Syria, rolling back Iran's nuclear program, defusing Chinese antagonism in the South China Sea, countering Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, or ensuring our sovereignty and constitutional rights are protected in any international agreements, there is no shortage of issues that need to be addressed. I am confident that you will be able to provide the necessary leadership to ensure that our allies know, once again, where we as a nation stand.

With your leadership, the State Department can improve its effectiveness in advancing our interests by promoting liberty, the rule of law, and human rights around the globe. I am also encouraged by your commitment to Israel and opposition to efforts to unduly disparage or discriminate against our closest and strongest ally in the Middle East.

Congratulations again on your confirmation, and I look forward to continuing to dialogue with you and your administration.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator