

United States Senate

June 24, 2020

To: EU Member States
Delegation of the European Union to the United States
2175 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

We write to commend Germany's April 30, 2020 designation of Iranian-backed Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and the nation's associated ban of all Hezbollah activity.¹ We also acknowledge Austria's efforts with regard to a similar proposed resolution and commend its passage. Unfortunately, Hezbollah has increasingly used Europe as a launching pad for its criminal and terrorist activities, including money laundering, drug smuggling, recruitment, and training. In particular, Hezbollah's fundraising and illicit business activities have generated additional annual revenue which the organization uses to support its global terrorism, including a 2012 Hezbollah terror attack in Bulgaria that killed 5 Israeli tourists and 1 Bulgarian citizen.

Since designating the entirety of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization in 1997, the United States has taken a series of bipartisan steps to counter the group, including:

- In December 2015, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the bipartisan *Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act* of 2015 (Public Law 114–102), which broadened financial sector sanctions to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group.
- In July 2016 and October 2017, the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution urging the European Union (EU) to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.
- In October 2018, Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed into law the bipartisan *Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2018* (Public Law 115-272), which imposed additional sanctions on the terrorist organization.
- In October 2019, the U.S. Department of the Treasury created the Counter-Hezbollah International Partnership to boost multilateral cooperative efforts to track and combat Hezbollah's global illicit finance.²
- In January 2020, President Donald Trump enacted additional sanctions, which specifically targeted financial revenue used by Tehran to support proxy groups such as Hezbollah.³

¹ <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/ban-of-hizb-allah-activities.html>

² <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm796>

³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-imposing-sanctions-respect-additional-sectors-iran/>

The United States remains dedicated to combating global terrorism and its enablers, and we encourage our allies and partners to join in this effort. We appreciate the EU's efforts to counter Hezbollah since it designated Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization in 2013, as well as its continued cooperation with the U.S. in thwarting Hezbollah's illicit activities. To build on these efforts, we strongly urge the EU to designate the entirety of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. In addition to the United States, Canada, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab League, as well as several other individual countries, have taken this step. We also continue to welcome action by individual member states to enact a formal terror designation of Hezbollah in its entirety and ban its activities within their borders.

We look forward to continuing an open discussion on joint cooperation in the common fight against global terrorism.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



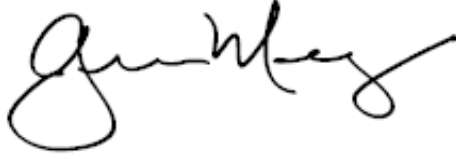
Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Peter T. King.
Member of Congress



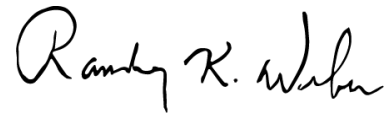
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Bradley S. Schneider in black ink.

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Randy K. Weber in black ink.

Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Alcee L. Hastings in black ink.

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress