COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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July 28, 2025

H.E. Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani Ambassador Embassy of the State of Qatar in Washington D.C. 2555 M St NW Washington DC 20037

RE: Invitation for My Chief of Staff to Visit Qatar

Your Excellency:

My Chief of Staff, Reggie Harris, received your invitation to join an upcoming trip to Qatar through the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program. We appreciate the invitation, but he will not be attending.

Normally, I encourage my staff to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about our allies and identify further opportunities for collaboration. It is essential to my role as a Member of Congress. However, Qatar's gross mishandling of the hostage crisis in Gaza and failure to sufficiently pressure Hamas into ending the war prevents me from allowing staff to visit your country.

Qatar's status as a Major Non-NATO Ally reflects the strategic ties between our two states. Your hosting Al-Udeid enhances both your and our national security. This close relationship between the United States and Qatar makes it particularly disappointing to continuously observe your sheltering and support of terror organizations, including terrorists who have killed Americans. While I support our strategic partnership, there is bipartisan, bicameral Congressional interest in reevaluating it – an effort I am hesitant to support yet am open to considering if we are unable to make progress on key issues.

Qatar has many levers available to them when dealing with Hamas:

- Terminate any future financial support for Hamas and Gaza, pending the release of the hostages and other moderating reforms.
- Take Hamas' political leaders in Doha, who have proven themselves to be useless in ceasefire negotiations, into custody pending the end of the hostage crisis and their relinquishing of power in Gaza.
- Review and address inflammatory, antisemitic, pro-Hamas propaganda that is amplified by Qatar's state-owned media outlet, Al-Jazeera.

I have, personally, pressured the Israeli government to end the war and secure the return of the hostages. Through many conversations, it has become undeniably clear that there can be no peaceful future for the region until the remaning hostages are freed.

I have also regularly and forcefully urged the Israeli government to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Palestinian civilians are facing unconscionable conditions and will never be able to realize a better future with Hamas in power. It is on both us – particularly Qatar given the role your state plays – to force Hamas' capitulation.

It is entirely unacceptable that there is currently a ceasefire offer, agreed to by Israel and supported by the mediators, and Hamas has, yet again, managed to cause the collapse of negotiations. That you continue to tolerate this obstructionist behavior from your terrorist beneficiary is incomprehensible.

In lieu of Reggie visiting Qatar, I would be happy to discuss what can be done to end the war, return the hostages, and get humanitarian aid to people in need in Gaza. I should hope that we share a goal of creating a stable, peaceful Middle East.

When we are able to pursue the outlined steps to create a better future for Israel and Palestinians, I would be happy to have my staff visit Qatar and identify ways for us to pursue our shared goals, protect our shared interests, and enhance our strategic alliance.

Sincerely,

Congressman Greg Landsman