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July 12, 2012

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John Kerry
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Senate Dirksen Room 444
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable
Richard Lugar
Ranking Member
Foreign Relations Committee
Senate Dirksen Room 446
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Ranking Member Lugar:

On behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), I am writing in regard to the July 18, 2012 nomination hearing for Mr. John M. Koenig, who is the Obama Administration's next choice for U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus.

We believe the hearing must be utilized as a forum for a critical review of U.S. policy regarding the 38-year-old illegal invasion and occupation by Turkey of the Republic of Cyprus and the subsequent ramifications of Turkey's illegal actions. In this regard, we would appreciate if a number of issues concerning the Republic of Cyprus are raised during the hearing's deliberation. These issues are of significance to U.S. interests and to the community, and equally important, are set forth in each case on the basis of what is in the best interests of the United States. For convenience, we have proposed a line of questioning in the enclosed document for your review and consideration to use during the hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these issues of critical importance to U.S. interests to your attention.

Sincerely,

Nick Larigakis

cc: Committee Members