

March 1, 2010

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Berman and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen:

The undersigned business organizations are concerned that passage of H. Res. 252 could harm the U.S. national interest by undermining the U.S. relationship with Turkey, a long-standing NATO ally and important commercial partner. While we are sensitive to the views of many in Congress concerning the tragic events that occurred as the Ottoman Empire dissolved, we urge you to consider as well the positive role played by the United States in the recent rapprochement between Turkey and Armenia.

The United States has an opportunity build on this progress on a number of fronts. For example, U.S. trade with Turkey last year was valued at more than \$10 billion, and several high-profile contracts and bids valued at more than \$10 billion are pending. Our economic engagement with Turkey supports thousands of jobs, and some of these may be placed at risk if the resolution in question is approved.

The U.S. business community has placed a strong emphasis on cultivating new opportunities in the strategic part of the world where Turkey and Armenia are situated. We respectfully ask you to take into consideration the significant national security and economic benefits the U.S.-Turkish relationship has yielded and the potential deleterious effect passage of this resolution could have on these ties.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Employment through Exports
National Foreign Trade Council
USA*Engage
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Cc: The Members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs