



WYOMING SENATE DISTRICT 7

The Honorable Amygdalos Michael Stratis,
Deputy Mayor of Administration
Kastellorizo, Greece

Dear Deputy Mayor Amygdalos:

It is with deep chagrin that I watch the Turkish assertiveness in the eastern Mediterranean, which includes Turkey's almost daily violations of Greece's national airspace and territorial waters. The Greek and Turkish warplanes that flew over the beautiful skies of Kastellorizo for more than two and a half hours just recently, while not a new occurrence for your citizens, has to be unnerving to visitors and negatively impact your tourism economy.

I, along with many of my fellow colleagues of Greek ancestry here in the United States, want to express our full solidarity with Greece and Cyprus in the face of Turkish violations of their sovereign rights. We are deeply troubled by their many actions, which are provocative and raise tensions in the region.

We will continue to impress upon our government the inherent risk of a serious conflict in the very near future, if Ankara does not back down on disputed attempts to explore for natural resources in the Mediterranean. This is only but one of many hostile and confrontational actions the Turkish government continues against Greece, Cyprus, the US, NATO, and the EU.

I am encouraged that the US State Department today has called on Turkey to halt plans for seismic activities in the area. The State Department is deeply concerned about Turkey's stated plans to survey for natural resources in areas over which Greece and Cyprus asserts jurisdiction in the Eastern Mediterranean. Our message to Turkey is to cease any actions that raise tensions in the region.

Last January when we had breakfast in Athens with the Governor of the South Aegean, Mr. George Hatzimarkos, we were considering visiting your wonderful island this summer. Unfortunately, when the global pandemic hit, our plans were derailed. Hopefully we will be able to schedule a visit during a future trip to Greece. In the meantime, we will work diligently here in the US to inform our congressional delegation of Turkey's aggressiveness and unwillingness to be a good regional partner, and how Greece and Cyprus have had nothing but excellent relations with the US in the past, and their utmost desire to continue our strong friendship to further our mutual security goals in the future.

We pray for the health and safety of all your citizens and look forward to meeting you one day soon. May God bless you and may God bless Greece!

Sincerely,

Stephan A. Pappas, AIA, LEED AP