

January 1, 2018
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about Iran. The US has historically wielded tremendous power internationally. Besides having a large population with outsized buying power and well funded military there is the large and deeply connected State Department and a tradition of taking the lead in treaty negotiations and organizations. The past year has seen a remarkable retreat. Treaties have been threatened leaving Chancellor Merkle's observation that others must step in to lead the prevailing world view. The State Department is being dismantled leaving the US unable to respond to or influence world events. Most recently there have been protests in Iran where years of careful US policy had been helping move the country toward a stabilizing influence in a chaotic region. The past year has seen incoherent policy with unilateral and unpredictable threats of economic sanctions, the recent replacement of career professionals on Iran and Iraq with the inexperienced Mr Peek and random incoherent tweets in place of thought out policy. Iran is at a crossroads where a well placed nudge from the US could have huge impact on the middle east for decades.

Please assure me that you will appoint and defer to an experienced diplomatic corps.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our moral world leadership.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson