August 23, 2018 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

## Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about the middle east. Every US administration for the past few decades has tried to deal with middle-eastern politics with results ranging from middling to disastrous. Current policies appear to be making things worse on many fronts. First there is the refugee crisis from the wars in Iraq and Syria where rather than leading you have closed our doors. Then there is the balance between Israel and Palestine where your party in Jerusalem coincided with and contributed to a slaughter at the Gaza fence. Related is your isolation of Iran emboldening a proxy war with Israel in Syria and adventurous voices in the Saudi succession battles. The middle east is notoriously complex and your many missteps suggest replacing the biased and incompetent Mr Kushner with an experienced hand.

Please assure me that you will defer to career diplomats on middle-eastern policy.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our diplomatic power.

Sincerely, Eric Babson