September 16, 2018 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about the middle east. Through many administrations the US has played a central role in attempts to negotiate peace, while remaining Israel's strongest supporter. This has been a difficult balancing act but has born occasional fruit such as the Oslo accords and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. This may be the clearest example of your bombastic approach to foreign policy. While promising an ultimate peace plan you have shown complete contempt for a balanced approach beginning with the assignment of this task to your incompetent and inexperienced son in law and followed by a long list of policy shifts widely viewed as taking sides. This includes moving the US embassy in Israel, opposing the right of return, closing the Palestinian offices here, cutting funds for Palestinian development and ignoring terrible violence at the Gaza border. With any claim to impartiality gone any plan you propose will be much more difficult to sell. Your actions will also cause serious hardships in Gaza and the west bank, as privately acknowledged even by Israeli officials. This is another example of squandering decades of diplomacy for essentially no return.

Please assure me that you will remain impartial in Palestine.

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

Sincerely, Eric Babson