

March 9, 2019
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about Iran, Venezuela and North Korea. After two years of slashing the diplomatic budget, a never completed reorganization by Secretary Tillerson and sidelining of the experts US diplomacy has become fickle and transactional with few back up strategies. Three signature initiatives have been your all out sanctions assault on Iran and more recently on Venezuela and your overtures to North Korea. Fortunately none have led to wars but they are not going well with all three countries facing serious economic crises. Such grandstanding is politically useful for any leader but is best when backed by extensive quiet diplomacy. I worry that without this diplomacy there is no contingency plan for dealing with a strengthened religious leadership in Iran, an indefinitely embattled Maduro in Venezuela and an increasingly pugnacious Kim in North Korea.

Please assure me that you will defer to diplomats.

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

Sincerely,
Eric Babson