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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4319

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20230

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

Thank you for your leadership and steadfast public service to our great country. We are grateful for the hard-working men and women at the State Department and their attention to American security and interests around the world. We're writing to again express our concerns with the recent decline in democratic governance and potential corruption within Georgia.

As you know, since its independence in 1991, Georgia has made great strides to transform their economy and geopolitical security relationships to ensure greater market access to global trading partners, defense relationships, and free and fair elections. However, since the Russian oligarch, Bidzina Ivanishvili, and his Georgian Dream Party came to power in 2012, the country has been backsliding on this progress. After speaking with your colleagues, Cheryl Fernandes and Aaron Rupert, we feel assured that the State Department is doing their best to monitor the continued deterioration of the private sector investment environment, especially for U.S. companies, as well as the Government of Georgia's commitment to continued democratic reform and seek to be a NATO ally.

As you go into future meetings with Georgian officials, specifically Georgian Prime Minister Gakharia, we ask that you keep our concerns in mind:

- 1) The current government of Georgia led by the Georgian Dream party is being manipulated by Russian oligarch, Bidzina Ivanishvili, who is making efforts to drive out U.S. businesses that have been contributing to the American and Georgian economy for decades. This is being done in favor of increasing private sector investment from Russia, China, and Iran.
- 2) Activities related to Black Sea ports in Georgia endanger critical American national security interests, including:
 - a. The deliberate exclusion of American companies from Black Sea port investments/ownership aimed at insulating Georgia from Russian and Chinese influence; and

b. Deficiencies in enforcing American sanctions against Iran and Russia, especially and specifically in the context of port activities and other related private sector investments.

3) The fact that the Georgian Parliament still has not passed the necessary electoral reform law which is crucial for the Fall 2020 parliamentary elections to be transparent and fair.

We appreciate your attention to this timely matter and ask that you and your team follow up with us to discuss the actions that will be taken to strengthen our relationship and hold Georgia accountable.

Sincerely,



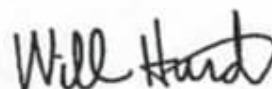
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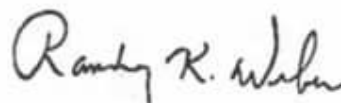
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