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August 24, 2006

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I thank you for contacting me regarding the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict. I have been very concerned with the hostilities that occurred this past month, and I appreciate hearing your views on this matter.

On July 12, Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and fired Katushya rockets into Israel. This prompted a swift military response from Israel, including a naval, air and land blockade on Lebanon and heavy fighting then ensued between the parties. I am deeply saddened by the loss of innocent civilian lives that has occurred both in Lebanon and Israel. Nearly 1,500 civilians have died, over 5000 have been wounded, and more than a 1.5 million have been displaced from their homes in Israel and Lebanon.

As an original co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 450, which calls on the President to appeal to all sides in the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict for an immediate cessation of violence, I welcome the recent ceasefire that has followed from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701. I also welcome Resolution 1701's call for redeployment of Israeli troops and an increase of Lebanese and UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon. I am hopeful that a multinational UN force of 15,000 troops will soon be added to the 15,000 Lebanese troops in southern Lebanon.

At a time when it seems there are more threats to global security than ever before, it is critical that the United States directly engage in efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. I believe that the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict will be followed by others in that area until a permanent resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is reached which has the backing of neighboring countries and the United States.

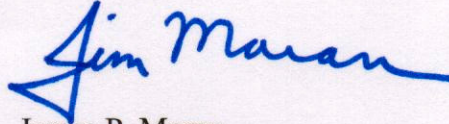
Despite our experiences in Iraq, the United States remains the only power in the world that can make this happen. I believe that in the aftermath of the recent violence, there is an opportunity for genuine discussions on peace to take place. But these will not occur spontaneously. They will occur only as a result of a determined and forceful leadership. This is the role that the United States must play in the next few months. We are capable of doing so. I am hoping that the Administration has the courage to do so.

I thank you for expressing your concerns on this important issue. I will continue to monitor

developments in Israel and Lebanon. I invite you to visit my website at www.moran.house.gov that contains information on many topics of interest and allows you to sign up for the Moran e-News.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

James P. Moran

JPM/sa