December 12, 2017

The Honorable Bob Corker  The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
Chairman  Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Cardin:

On behalf of the members of the Aerospace Industries Association, representing more than 2.4 million U.S. aerospace and defense workers, I write today to request your assistance in normalizing the transfer of defense equipment to the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

As you know, the U.S. aerospace and defense industry plays a critical role advancing American foreign policy and security interests by providing American-made defense equipment to partners and allies in the Middle East. Since June 2017, intra-regional disputes in the Middle East have created open-ended delays to the normal process of review and approvals by Congress and the State Department for materiel destined for GCC nations. These delays interrupt the good work the U.S. is doing to ensure appropriate defense, burden sharing and interoperability with our allies in the region. This halt threatens the long-term health of the U.S. defense industrial base, opens the door to foreign competition and influence in the Middle East, and places U.S. production lines at risk if not resolved, leading to a loss of existing U.S. jobs and a failure to create new jobs.

We would like to express our gratitude for your leadership in working to resolve the dispute between the Gulf countries and your commitment to promoting regional stability, defeating terrorism, and combating extremism. We therefore respectfully request your assistance in securing a path forward that allows sales to GCC partners to resume in a predictable and efficient manner as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

David F. Melcher  
President and CEO  
Aerospace Industries Association