

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

You have previously acknowledged that Turkey's purchase of the Russian S-400 air defense system triggers U.S. sanctions. Specifically, you said, "the law requires that there be sanctions. And I'm confident that we will comply with the law, and President Trump will comply with the law."¹ You were right when you made that statement. The *Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act* requires the United States to impose sanctions on Turkey for its acquisition of the Russian-made S-400 system.

In recent days, a Turkish defense official indicated that Turkey has gone beyond acquisition and is now testing a component of the S-400 system in Ankara this week.² In addition, yesterday, the head of Russian state arms exporter Rosoboronexport asserted that Russia hopes to seal a deal to supply Turkey with even more S-400 missile systems in the first half of next year. The Russian official said, "But I want to stress that military technical cooperation with Turkey is not limited to the supply of the S-400s. We have big plans ahead."³

Both the Administration and the Congress have repeatedly warned President Erdogan that his decision to move forward with the S-400 requires the imposition of American sanctions. Despite President Erdogan's recent visit to the White House, he has given no public indications that he is going to change course.

¹ Madeleine Jounq, "How President Trump Is Undercutting Pompeo in a Dispute Over Turkey's Purchase of a Russian Missile System." TIME, August 2, 2019.

² Firat Kozok, "Turkey Begins Testing Missile Radars at Heart of Row With U.S." Bloomberg, November 25, 2019.

³ Antony Kolodyazhnyy and Daren Butler, "Russia hopes to agree new S-400 missile deal with Turkey next year." Reuters, November 26, 2019.

The time for patience has long expired. It is time you applied the law. Failure to do so is sending a terrible signal to other countries that they can flout U.S. laws without consequence.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator