

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 17, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

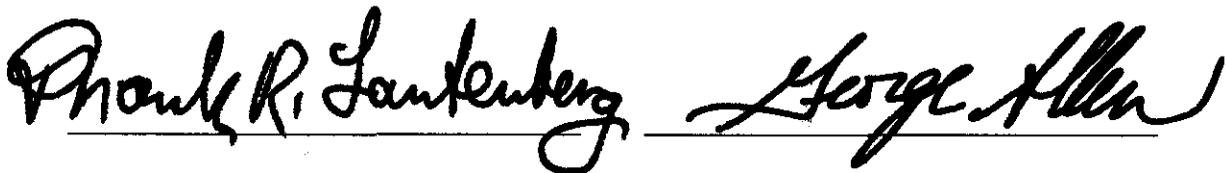
In light of this week's assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Beirut, we urge you to tighten sanctions on Syria. Our message to the Syrians, and to other undemocratic regimes in the region, must be clear and direct: terrorist activity will not be tolerated.

The Syria and Lebanese Sovereignty Act of 2003, on which you based your May 2004 trade sanctions against Syria, was passed in response to Syria's support for terrorism, its occupation of Lebanon, and its pursuit of dangerous weapons. As you know, the legislation we passed gives you the discretion to adjust the level of sanctions on Syria.

Neither the U.S. nor our allies can afford to let Syria off the hook. The Syrians have failed to secure the Iraq border, permitting the infiltration of foreign terrorists into Iraq. Syria continues to harbor leaders who order, plan, and finance terror attacks against Israeli citizens. Operatives of the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades regularly receive training in Syrian camps. In addition to its sponsorship of terrorism, the government of Syria has ignored and violated multiple U.N. resolutions by refusing to remove its troops from Lebanon. As long as Syria continues to occupy Lebanon and train suicide bombers, the region is not safe.

In order to demonstrate our nation's intolerance for terrorism, we urge you to take strong action against Syria. We also urge you to reach out to our allies around the world to encourage them to stand firm against Syria's actions and policies.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Frank R. Lautenberg and George Allen, each underlined.

Charles Schumer Non Wyden

Bill Nelson Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chris Joy Bailey Futchman

Sam Brownback Tommy

Bob