



The Honorable John F. Kerry
US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
US Department of State
Washington DC, United States of America

18 March, 2021

Re: The Climate Crisis and The Abraham Accords: Aligning US and Israeli Climate Commitments.

Dear Climate Envoy Kerry,

We, members of environmental organizations in Israel, would like to congratulate you on your appointment as President's Biden Special Envoy for Climate.

We seek to bring to your attention our concerns as regards a project born of the Abraham Accords that we believe is contrary to the spirit of cooperation sought between the US and Israel on fighting the climate crisis.

The project of concern is a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Med-Red L.B. by which Israel is to become a land conduit for the transport of fuel from the Gulf states to Europe. According to the terms of this MoU petroleum tankers from the Gulf states will arrive and dock at the ports of Eilat (through Gulf of Aqaba), to be transferred to a pipeline and transported hundreds of kilometers to the Mediterranean port city of Ashkelon, there to be again loaded onto tankers bound for Europe. We have specific environmental concerns relating to the likelihood of oil spills in the Gulf of Aqaba endangering the unique¹ coral reefs of Eilat in Israel, Sinai Peninsula and Egypt and Aqaba in Jordan, of the pipeline potentially polluting the unique ecosystems of the Arava and Negev deserts and oil spills occurring off the Mediterranean coast of Israel.

No less significant we believe that the project is contrary to the new spirit of Israeli / US climate cooperation that we were so pleased to learn about following conversations we understand have been held with Israeli Ambassador to the US, Gilad Erdan.

¹ The unique genetic makeup of Northern Red Sea corals makes the reef a rare natural treasure: these are the only corals on earth with the ability to withstand and survive a potential rise in temperature due to climate change.

Given the leadership of the former US administration in initiating and negotiating these important Accords and the interest of the new administration to continue to build on these Accords, we believe it is important that the Accords be aligned to combating the climate crisis and not be misused in a manner that both risks our fragile environment and runs contrary to declared US / Israeli commitments.

We would be grateful if we could hold a conversation with a senior member of your staff to further discuss our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Maya Jacobs, CEO, Zalul, Environmental NGO	Prof. Nadav Shashar, Chairman Eilat Conservation Society.	Gidon Bromberg Israeli Director EcoPeace, ME	Dorit Benet, CEO Eilat-Eilot
David Lehrer Executive Director, Arava Institute	Arik Rosenblum, CEO, EcoOcean	Yoni Sappir, Chairman, Israel Home Guardian	Elad Hochman Executive Director, Green Course, NGO
Joseph Segal, Founder & CEO, The Coast Patrol NGO	Yosef Abromawitz CEO, Energiya Global Capital		

CC:

HE Israeli Ambassador to the US and to the UN Mr. Gilad Erdan
Incumbent Jonathan Shrier Chargé d'Affaires since January 20, 2021
Israel Ambassador, Special Envoy for Climate change and Sustainability, Gideon Bahar
