

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20451

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretaries Rubio, Bessent, and Lutnick,

For the past two months, we have urged the Administration to update the broad and outdated Syria sanctions that are undercutting U.S. interests and unnecessarily harming the Syrian people. We have laid out concrete steps the Administration should take – or risk walking away from an opportunity to promote stability in the region and help the Syrian people build a better life after years of living under the thumb of the brutal Assad regime.

Although President Trump has said he “will be ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria,” we have not yet been briefed by the Administration or provided concrete details about what that means in practice.

After being in place for almost five decades, the Syria sanctions regime contains layers of sanctions and export controls that need to be updated or unwound responsibly. This includes addressing the prohibitions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act that targeted the former Assad regime in Syria -- as well as immediately issuing export control licenses allowing Syria to gain access to U.S. equipment and software for healthcare, energy, transport, education and infrastructure. Those most suited to fund Syria’s reconstruction have also highlighted the importance of addressing export controls as part of encouraging reconstruction with equipment from the United States. The Gulf Cooperation Council’s Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Negotiation has stated that “Syria sanctions relief must include lifting export controls as well.”<sup>1</sup> Failing to address export controls along with sanctions relief would likely open the door for China, Russia, and Iran to drive Syria’s reconstruction.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://x.com/abuhamad1/status/1923046152783434081>

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It is critically important that we update our approach in Syria quickly. Every day that goes by without these reforms threatens our strategic interests and makes it more difficult for Syria to rebuild after decades of oppression.

We reiterate our request for a briefing to ensure the Administration is making progress on these issues.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "Wilson" clearly legible.

Joe Wilson  
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" and last name "Warren" clearly legible.

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs