

March 24, 2025

**MITCHEL R. AEDER**  
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Executive Vice President

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& Chief Operating Officer

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Executive Director

**ISAAC PRETTER**  
Chairman, Advocacy

**YEHUDA NEUBERGER**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Senator James Risch, Chairman  
Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Mem.  
Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations  
and the U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC

Dear Senator,

We write to you on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (“Orthodox Union”) regarding the United States Senate’s consideration of Mike Huckabee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

The Orthodox Union is the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization serving thousands of congregations nationwide. As a nonpartisan religious organization, it is our practice not to endorse or oppose a president's nominees before the Senate for confirmation. However, we wish to express our view to the Senate regarding several issues that have arisen in connection with Gov. Huckabee's nomination.

A vocal campaign, claiming to be broadly representative of the Jewish community, portrays Gov. Huckabee's views toward the Israeli - Palestinian conflict in general, and the historic connection of the Jewish People to the land of Judea and Samaria in particular, as extreme and “counter to U.S. interests.” That position in no way represents “the” voice of America’s Jewish community. We do not claim to speak on behalf of the entire Jewish or Orthodox Jewish community, but we can say with certainty that many American Jews -- within and beyond the Orthodox Union’s constituency -- and other pro-Israel Americans share Gov. Huckabee’s understanding of the realities of the region, especially in the wake of Hamas’ heinous attack of Oct. 7, 2023, and its aftermath.

This recent history has caused many pro-Israel Americans who share the goal of achieving security and peace for all in the Mideast to view the model of the peace process pursued in the past as stale and illusory. These Americans support a new approach to how the United States will engage with this important aspect of American foreign policy.

Israel has demonstrated – often through very painful sacrifices – its commitment to do whatever it can to advance peace with the Palestinians and all its neighbors. Despite Israel’s clear and consistent desire for peace, it has had to stand up forcefully to the ongoing Iranian-funded threats it faces on all fronts and advanced most aggressively by those who control and lead the Palestinian populations in both Gaza and the West Bank.

While Israelis understand that the Palestinians are not going anywhere and seek to live in peace with the Palestinians, they have not found a relevant partner on the Palestinian side who accepts that Israelis are not going anywhere and who seek to live in peace with Israel. The Palestinians

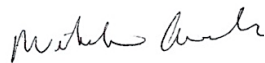
repeatedly, and through their official organs, deny the historic connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel and refuse to recognize the legitimacy of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people.

Lest we think the rejectionism is limited to the monsters of Hamas, in recent weeks we have again heard the leaders of the Palestinian Authority continue to commit their last penny to paying and incentivizing murderous terrorists. This has created a situation where from left to right there is no meaningful Israeli support to even consider Palestinian statehood absent a visible change in their culture and attitudes towards Israel. Supporters of Israel who continue their uninterrupted pursuit of Palestinian national aspirations are entirely out of step with the sentiment of most Israelis who feel that advancing such statehood would pose an existential threat to Israel's security. Gov. Huckabee understands the existential concerns of Israelis and that understanding will be very valuable in discharging the duties of U.S. Ambassador, should he be confirmed.

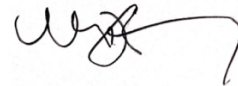
Gov. Huckabee's views have been shaped in significant part by his deeply held Evangelical faith that recognizes the unbreakable connection of the Jewish people to the biblical land of Israel. We are deeply appreciative of the Christian Zionist community for their stalwart support of Israel and active opposition to the deeply disturbing rising tide of antisemitism in the United States. We share a belief in the eternal Jewish connection to the land of Israel along with the desire to live in peace with the Palestinians and help them thrive.

We thank you for taking our perspective into account as you consider Gov. Huckabee's nomination.

Sincerely,



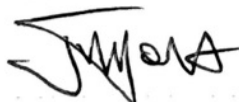
Mitchel Aeder  
President



Rabbi Moshe Hauer  
Executive Vice President



Nathan J. Diament  
Executive Director



Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph  
Executive Vice President  
& COO



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Chairman, Advocacy