

# State of Rhode Island

SENATOR  
**LEONIDAS P. RAPTAKIS**  
District 33

2080 Nooseneck Hill Road  
Coventry, Rhode Island 02816

Room 114  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE 401-276-5567  
HOME 401-397-8345

sen-raptakis@rilegislature.gov



## Senate Chamber

SECRETARY  
Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Special  
Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Jack Reed  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing in response to the Biden administration's efforts to seek Congressional approval of the potential sale of \$20 billion in F-16 fighter jets to the Turkish regime. I urge you and your colleagues to reject this ill-conceived and strategically flawed approach to dealing with President Erdogan in the hopes of reversing his bad behavior.

In a visit to Washington last week, it was quite telling that the Turkish foreign minister framed the decision in typical authoritarian strongman terms. "The administration should not waste such an important deal between two allies just because one person or a few people are blocking it. It should not bow down." There is a clear contempt for democracy contained in the statement and a tacit admission that there is ample reason for members of Congress to reject the deal. Erdogan and his administration simply want the Biden White House to do what they would do—bully and threaten to get what they want.

President Erdogan is not a trusted ally and his willingness to cooperate with Russia and undermine NATO's efforts to isolate Putin over the Ukraine invasion. The Erdogan regime has been happy to play the role of chaos agent in the Eastern Mediterranean, threatening Greece and provoking conflict, all while running multiple military campaigns against US-backed Kurdish forces in Syria. The last thing we should be doing is rewarding this bad behavior with new F-16s and upgrade kits for Turkey's air fleet. Before any such sale should be considered, Turkey should return the S-400 air defense system it secured from Russia, a move that rightly led our government to reject the sale of F-35s to Turkey.

I hope you will oppose this arms sale and continue to take steps to support America's allies in the Eastern Mediterranean. This sale would significantly undermine the long-standing US-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, weakening that vital strategic partnership and encouraging the territorial ambitions of the Erdogan regime.

Sincerely,

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Leonidas Raptakis

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## Senate Chamber

SECRETARY  
Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Special  
Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

I am writing in response to the Biden administration's efforts to seek Congressional approval of the potential sale of \$20 billion in F-16 fighter jets to the Turkish regime. I urge you and your colleagues to reject this ill-conceived and strategically flawed approach to dealing with President Erdogan in the hopes of reversing his bad behavior.

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January 23, 2023



## Senate Chamber

SECRETARY  
Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Special  
Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable David Cicilline  
2233 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

I am writing in response to the Biden administration's efforts to seek Congressional approval of the potential sale of \$20 billion in F-16 fighter jets to the Turkish regime. I urge you and your colleagues to reject this ill-conceived and strategically flawed approach to dealing with President Erdogan in the hopes of reversing his bad behavior.

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## Senate Chamber

SECRETARY  
Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Special  
Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Seth Magaziner  
1218 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Magaziner:

I am writing in response to the Biden administration's efforts to seek Congressional approval of the potential sale of \$20 billion in F-16 fighter jets to the Turkish regime. I urge you and your colleagues to reject this ill-conceived and strategically flawed approach to dealing with President Erdogan in the hopes of reversing his bad behavior.

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