

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

January 31, 2023

Dear State Senator Raptakis,

Thank you for your letter opposing the sale of new F-16 fighter jets to Turkey as recently announced by the Biden Administration. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me on this important issue.

Like you, I have serious concerns about the possibility of selling new F-16s to President Erdogan's Turkey. This announced sale comes at a time when President Erdogan's domestic and foreign policy have been defined by dangerous actions, harmful threats, and a disregard for democratic norms. In November, Turkish airstrikes in Syria directly threatened the safety of U.S. personnel working to defeat the Islamic State. Just a few weeks ago, President Erdogan stated that Turkish missiles could hit Athens if his neighbor doesn't "stay calm." Additionally, while the international community has united around Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, President Erdogan has stood in the way of NATO membership for Sweden and Finland and continues to provide economic haven for Russia's oligarchs. Finally, President Erdogan has continued to erode Turkish democracy, exemplified by the sham conviction of Ekrem Imamoglu, the mayor of Istanbul and prominent opposition figure. These actions and rhetoric not only undermine the strategic relationship between our two nations, but also are inconsistent with the founding principles of the NATO Alliance and should not be rewarded.

In Congress, I have continued to support efforts that hold President Erdogan accountable. That is why I was proud to join Representative Chris Pappas (NH-01) in cosponsoring an amendment to the FY 2023 NDAA that would establish reasonable limitations on the ability to sell F-16 aircraft and modernization kits to Turkey. To put it simply, the United States should not reward Turkey's problematic behavior with new F-16s.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding this important issue. Please know that I will continue to monitor the sale or transfer of any jets to Turkey. If I may be of assistance to you again in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, please visit [www.cicilline.house.gov](http://www.cicilline.house.gov) for up-to-date information on my work in Congress.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline  
*Member of Congress*