

THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

March 21, 2023

The Honorable James Lankford United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

Thank you for your letter to President Biden regarding the role of trade policy in strengthening the Abraham Accords. The President has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Biden Administration supports strengthening relations among our Middle East partners, including through our trade policy agenda. My team and I have prioritized the issue of expanded trade ties between Middle East partners in our engagements with countries in the region. For example, my team raised these issues during our formal Trade and Investment Framework Agreement dialogue with the Egyptian Government in December 2022, as well as with Moroccan officials during our United States – Moroccan Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee meetings in February 2022.

Going forward, my team and I will continue to work with our Middle East partners to identify ways we can deepen engagement through trade and investment. I look forward to working with you and the Abraham Accords Caucus in promoting Middle East regional trade and investment.

Thank you again for your letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future about this or other matters of concern to you.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Katherine Ta