

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

His Excellency Yoon Suk-Yeol
President of the Republic of Korea
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
2450 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

April 24, 2023

Dear President Yoon,

We commend you for the important steps you and your administration is taking to strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea (U.S.-ROK), and we look forward to welcoming you on your official state visit to the United States. Your words and actions in the first year of your Presidency have laid the foundation for a closer relationship between the U.S., and other like-minded countries that share our democratic values.

We also share a bipartisan commitment to the U.S.-Israel relationship and are interested in working with you and your government to find ways to build the U.S.-R.O.K.-Israel trilateral relationship. We are very appreciative of the important steps your government has taken to forge closer ties with the State of Israel, including opposing one-sided, anti-Israel, resolutions at the United Nations.

Economic and military ties between the U.S., the R.O.K., and Israel are strengthening as we continue building on interests that align. A new free trade agreement (FTA) between South Korea and Israel just went into effect, the first such FTA between Israel in the Indo Pacific region, which we hope will deepen and diversify trading ties between Israel, the Start-Up nation, and South Korea's technologically advanced, Scale-Up nation. Last year, the U.S. and the R.O.K. celebrated 10 years of the implementation of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), which is 1 of only 20 such agreements the U.S. has with other countries. We believe that a trade dialogue between our 3 countries will open opportunities for increased cooperation in the fields of energy and education, joint research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and nanotechnology.

Given the complex security environments surrounding both countries, Israel and South Korea have much in common, and we believe that these values and interests born from war and adversity also provide an opportunity for the U.S., R.O.K., and Israel to build a stronger security relationship. In the area of defense and national security, South Korea and Israel enjoy various defense agreements, and the U.S. has long enjoyed a strong security relationship with both countries. We are committed to ensuring that the U.S. continues standing alongside fellow democracies in the Middle East and in the Indo-Pacific who face consistent threats from hostile and ambitious neighbors.

In the spirit of celebration about our close, respective bilateral relationships and the desire to build a trilateral relationship, we would welcome the prospect of you conducting a state visit to Israel. We believe this would be consistent with your vision of a “Global Korea” and would be a significant move towards building a new trilateral relationship.

We again look forward to welcoming you to the United States and look forward to a continued partnership with you and your administration on issues of foreign policy.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress