

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 2016

His Excellency
Alexis Tsipras
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic
Athens

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

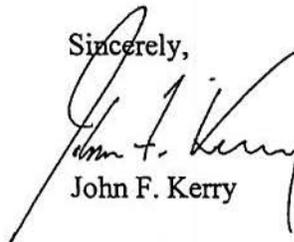
On behalf of the United States, I offer my congratulations to the Government of Greece, as well as to all of the partners in the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project consortium, on the occasion of the groundbreaking of this important pipeline. Without your tireless dedication, reaching this important milestone toward achieving the Southern Gas Corridor would not have been possible.

Today's groundbreaking is a major step toward completion of the Southern Gas Corridor, which will provide diversification of energy sources for both the region and Europe at large. As part of the Southern Gas Corridor, TAP will be a prime example of infrastructure that enhances European energy security.

The United States will continue to provide unwavering support to this vital energy security project. TAP, in tandem with other critical gas interconnector projects around the region, will bolster regional energy security, and provide true diversification of gas supplies for the first time in the history of southeastern Europe.

Again, I offer my sincere congratulations on a job well done. The United States will continue to stand by you and support your efforts to achieve energy security for your citizens and those across Europe.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry