

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2024

The Honorable Laurentino Cortizo Cohen  
President of the Republic of Panama  
Panama City, Panama

Dear President Cortizo:

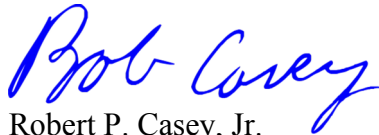
We write to thank you for your continued response with regard to Iranian shipping sanctions and the Panama Maritime Authority's ship registry—specifically, the Panama Maritime Authority's (AMP) focus on vessels suspected of carrying Iranian oil. It is our understanding that you intend to increase transparency and international compliance across the shipping industry to help cut into Iran's illicit revenues, laying the groundwork to better address similar situations in the future. We sincerely appreciate your work in combating Iran and view your efforts as a significant strengthening of the partnership that our countries have shared for many years.

We understand that Panama, and other like-minded states, created the Registry Information Sharing Compact (RISC) partly to prevent ships cancelled in one jurisdiction from easily registering in a different jurisdiction. We also have been made aware that ships requested to leave the AMP's registry before the AMP had them officially cancelled. Therefore, we urge Panama and other RISC states to work toward addressing this information sharing gap by also sharing information about ships that requested their own cancellation. Although not determinative of these vessels' guilt, such a move may merit additional vetting before another RISC member state chooses to allow such a ship to register under their own flag.

This additional step will help put a stop to Iran's ghost fleet, which has allowed it to export hundreds of millions of barrels of Iranian oil in recent years and which ultimately funds the regime's continued human rights violations, proxy forces, and nuclear proliferation program. Iran consistently works in opposition to peace, stability, democracy, and shared American values and interests across the Middle East.

We appreciate the Panamanian government's commitment to safeguarding our region from the threat posed by Iran, including by working closely with the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It is our hope that we continue to communicate on these important matters and further strengthen our relationship.

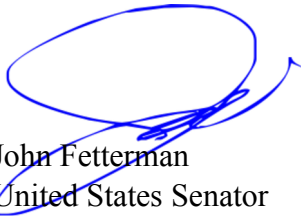
Sincerely,



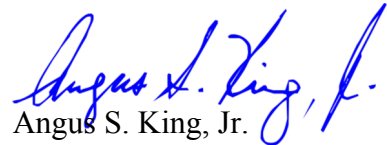
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



John Fetterman  
United States Senator



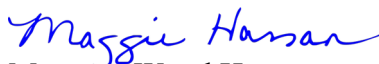
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
U.S. Senator



Maggie Hassan  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Wicker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Wicker" clearly legible.

Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator