

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20520

The Honorable Christopher Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave S.W.
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Wright:

We write to urge you to immediately declassify and publicly release the two side letters associated with the Trump Administration's proposed U.S.-Saudi 123 civil nuclear cooperation agreement. While the text of the agreement and the bilateral safeguards agreement are now publicly available in unclassified form,¹ the two side letters remain classified at the lowest possible level.

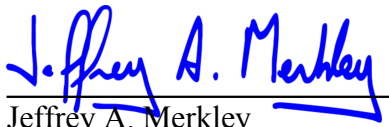
In previous 123 agreements, the Executive Branch publicly released the agreement along with side letters and related documents. Releasing the agreement text without the side letters here leaves that practice only half met. We are aware of no precedent for classifying and withholding the side letters, particularly when the stated purpose is peaceful nuclear cooperation.

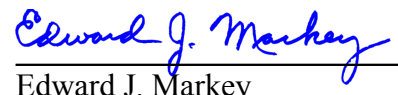
Congress has a statutory responsibility under Section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act to review the proposed nuclear deal, which seeks to facilitate nuclear cooperation with significant implications for U.S. national security interests. Access to the full text is required for the Senate and the public to have a clear understanding of the commitments being made on the nation's behalf and those being made by Saudi Arabia to the United States. The side letters affect the obligations and operations of the underlying agreement and cannot be viewed in isolation from it; the President's own transmission letter to Congress states that the agreement "...was concluded with two accompanying side letters."² Their public release would also allow civil society, independent experts, and other affected stakeholders to scrutinize the deal.

Transparency and open debate are cornerstones of our democracy. Congress and the American public must have a meaningful opportunity to review and debate the key components of the U.S.-Saudi nuclear deal before it potentially enters into force. To that end, we call on you to declassify and release the two side letters without delay.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

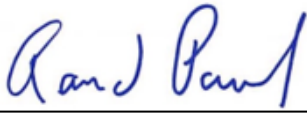
Sincerely,


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

¹ Executive Communication from the President, *An Agreement of Cooperation Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, GOVINFO (Aug. 27, 2026), <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CDOC-119hdoc191/CDOC-119hdoc191>.

² *Id.*



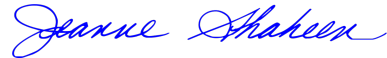
Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



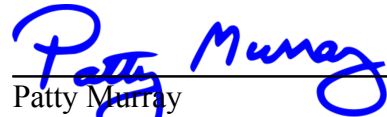
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



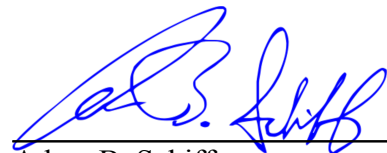
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

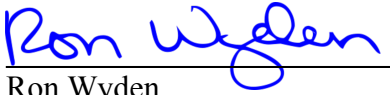


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

United States Senate

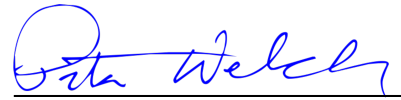
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Ron Wyden

United States Senator



Peter Welch

United States Senator