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29 Shevat 5785  
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Members of the Senate  
U.S. Congress

Dear Senators,

The Coalition for Jewish Values, representing over 2,500 traditional, Orthodox rabbis in matters of American public policy, supports the nomination of Governor Mike Huckabee to be Ambassador to Israel. Mr. Huckabee has been a consistent supporter of the US-Israel relationship and friend of the Jewish community for decades, and his policy statements ahead of his confirmation have indicated his intent to further advance the relationship between the United States and its closest ally.

We know that others, both Israeli political figures and American groups promoting the US-Israel relationship, have expressed their backing as well. But as we observe traditional Judaism and study traditional Jewish thought, we feel compelled to address the less favorable letter sent to Senators on this topic by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). The Center's characterization of Governor Huckabee and his positions is deeply flawed; its opposition to Governor Huckabee appears to be rooted in an aversion to his unwavering conservative and religious beliefs. This is ironic, given that Judaism has always emphasized the importance of faith, tradition, and moral clarity.

On the issue of Israel and "Palestinian national aspirations," Mr. Huckabee is correct and the RAC is objectively wrong. The so-called "Palestinian people" are Arabs with no distinct national history apart from the broader Arab world. Second, they already have a state, called Jordan, comprising 77% of British mandatory Palestine. And finally, if at any time Palestinian Arab leadership had desired a second state alongside Israel, they would long since already have one. Despite offers in 1947, 1967, 1993, 1998, and 2000, they chose terrorism, incitement, and rejectionism every time. By

perpetuating a false narrative of Palestinian victimhood, the RAC distorts history and emboldens those who seek Israel's destruction.

It is astounding that the RAC claims that the Biblical values to which Mr. Huckabee adheres, and of which his "Christian Zionism" is one element, have not been "tested in the free marketplace of ideas." The Founding Fathers, all of whom were deeply religious, learned to value life, pursue peace, limit the ruler's power, mete out equal justice, and value family, education, and social responsibility from the Bible. Those values built a collection of colonies into a free nation and the world's leading superpower, against many other ideologies. To claim that these ideas are untested "faith assertions" is ludicrous.

The RAC also claims that Mr. Huckabee believes that "the well-being of Jews, of Israel, and of America are not ends in themselves but means to the fulfillment of Christian eschatology." We have reached out to the RAC for evidence for this claim, but have received no response. To our awareness, nothing in Mr. Huckabee's extensive written and spoken record supports their assertion. On the contrary, he has stated multiple times that he is motivated by G-d's promise to bless those who bless Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:3), which is entirely unrelated to Christian eschatology or the Messianic Era.

Governor Huckabee has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to religious freedom, moral clarity, and support for Israel's rights to exist and protect its citizens. We hope that you will judge him by his track record, his expressed sentiments for decades prior to his nomination, and his answers to your questions. We expect that those who follow that standard will give him their full support, and that he will do an outstanding job as Ambassador to Israel.

Yours Sincerely,



Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
Executive Vice President