

Sen. Roger F. Wicker, *Mississippi*
Chairman

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, *New Jersey*
Co-Chairman



17 October, 2018

His Excellency Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs
100000, Tashkent,
Amir Temur Street, 3
Uzbekistan

Cc:

Senator Sodyq Safoyev, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Uzbekistan
Mr. Akmal Saidov, Member of Parliament, and Head, National Human Rights Center

Dear Minister Kamilov,

My understanding is your government and parliament aim to finish drafting your new religion law by the end of this year. I therefore urge your government to formally request an OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights legal review as soon as possible. Such a review would complement the bi-lateral engagement between our governments about the draft law.

During our encouraging July 25 meeting, we discussed actions your government is taking to bring Uzbekistan into compliance with its OSCE and international commitments on religious freedom. We also discussed how our countries can work together to achieve these and other shared goals.

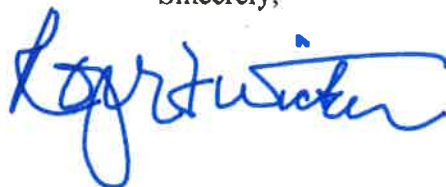
Your parliament's May "Road Map" is a positive step toward ensuring religious freedom. Inviting ODIHR to review your draft religion law is an immediate and important opportunity to advance your reform agenda. The United States strongly supports the mandate of ODIHR to assist participating States in complying with their OSCE commitments. ODIHR has reviewed existing and draft laws on freedom of religion or belief at the invitation of participating states, including, since 2008, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

The United States agrees with Uzbekistan that reforming your current religion law so that it complies with your OSCE and international commitments is essential to ensuring religious freedom is respected in Uzbekistan. ODIHR can collaborate with you to ensure your new law is compliant.

As I said publicly after our meeting, Uzbekistan can be a model of reform in the region and beyond—if it fully implements essential reforms. I look forward to continuing to work with you, your government, and your parliament to deepen the partnership between the United States and Uzbekistan.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. J. ...". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial letter and a long horizontal stroke.