The Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Los Angeles

[redacted]
California State Senator
[redacted]

June 6, 2023

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you to inform you about positive developments in Turkish-Armenian relations as I am aware that you are interested in this issue, considering your statements in the past.

Last weekend marked a historical moment in modern Turkish-Armenian relations. On June 3rd the Armenian Prime Minister, Mr Nikol Pashinyan, attended the inauguration ceremony of the Turkish President, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, following his re-election.

On the occasion of Prime Minister Pashinyan's visit to Ankara, President Erdoğan came together with prominent members of the Armenian-Turkish community including the Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul Sahag II Mashalian. (I enclose herewith a picture taken during this visit where Mr President is seen with his Armenian counterpart, the Patriarch and other members of the Armenian-Turkish community.)

I am bringing this to your attention because I realize that this kind of positive developments are often ignored. Instead, a rhetoric of hatred of my country is prevailing here in Los Angeles and California.

Having said that, I invite you to consider whether what you are being told by certain groups here in Los Angeles is in line with the reality of the current state of relations between the two countries or not.

The Turkish and Armenian governments are making a historic effort to normalize their relations. Please do not turn a blind eye to this effort.

I, therefore, kindly ask you to put these facts into consideration in the future while you are making any statement or taking any decision on the Turkish-Armenian issues. This approach would be much more conducive to peace between the Armenian and Turkish people.

Yours sincerely,

Sinan Kuzum
Consul General