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# United States Senate

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May 12, 2006

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting me to join you. I am traveling in Ohio today and am sorry that I cannot join you in person to commemorate the Cedar Revolution. In 2002, I traveled to Lebanon and had the distinct honor of meeting with the late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. We are now seeing much progress in the areas the Prime Minister and I discussed. I was so pleased to see, for the first time in 30 years, free and fair elections taking place in Lebanon after Syrian troops had withdrawn and the pro-Syrian government had disbanded.

I look forward to continuing our friendship and advancing the cause of Lebanese liberty in the U.S. Senate. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have supported efforts for Lebanon in funding economic growth and democracy programs. As we continue to see integration in global markets, I encourage the growing trade relationship between the United States and Lebanon. The Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, of which I was a co-sponsor, was designed to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, and stop its development of weapons of mass destruction. I also co-sponsored many resolutions in support of the people of Lebanon -- a nation that stands as an example of freedom and democracy in the Middle East.

Thank you, again, for your invitation to be with you today. I know this important event will be a great success.

Very respectfully yours,



MIKE DeWINE  
United States Senator

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