



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 4, 2007

His Excellency
Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Baku

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations to you and the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the opening of the Fourteenth International Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference in Baku.

During your visit to Washington last year, you and President Bush spoke about the importance of strengthening democracy and the strong partnership of the United States and Azerbaijan in security and energy. We expressed our appreciation of the vital leadership by Azerbaijan in these areas. Now, as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the South Caucasus gas pipeline have become operational, the world can see the magnitude of this achievement – economic development for the Caspian region and increased energy security for the world.

We believe that even greater achievements lie ahead. Azerbaijan has the potential to become a major gas exporter to Europe – in conjunction with Central Asian countries – in a new Southern Corridor encompassing the Turkey-Greece-Italy and Nabucco pipelines as transit routes for Caspian gas to Europe. The leadership role of Azerbaijan will be crucial, as it was with the achievements of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and South Caucasus pipelines.

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Security between our countries, as well as the agreement your country signed with the European Union, provides an excellent forum and roadmap forward for our continued cooperation on energy. Following last year's signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, the United States hopes soon to see additional volumes of North Caspian oil linking to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, initially by tanker.

The United States will continue to work in partnership with Azerbaijan to promote world energy security and to create a prosperous, peaceful, and democratic future for Azerbaijan's people and this vital region.

We extend our best wishes for the success of the Fourteenth International Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos M. Gutierrez".

Carlos M. Gutierrez