Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand:

During the coming weeks, you will be called upon to vote on the President’s nomination of Mr. Michael Pompeo to become our next Secretary of State. I am writing with concern regarding the urgent need to know that Mr. Pompeo, should he be confirmed, will ensure that the position of Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism is filled. The responsibilities of the Special Envoy are defined by the U.S. Department of State Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004.

Last week during his hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Pompeo stated that one of his many responsibilities will be to fill the large number of diplomatic posts in the Department of State that are currently vacant. The Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism is of utmost importance among them, particularly today given the precipitous rise in anti-Semitism during the past year.

Since its creation in 2004, individuals holding Ambassador status have headed the Office of the Special Envoy. Under their direction during both Democratic and Republican administrations, the Office to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism worked tirelessly to both (a) monitor and address anti-Semitism around the world and (b) hold other nations responsible for doing the same. Data collected by the United States government and outside organizations demonstrate that anti-Semitic activity and incidents actually declined from 2004 through 2016.

The post of Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism has remained vacant since July 2017, leaving the vital task of monitoring and fighting against the scourge of aggressive and non-aggressive anti-Semitic activity solely to outside agencies during a year of virulent anti-Semitic activity in the United States and abroad. The urgent need to fill the position of Special Envoy is underscored by the recent laws passed in Poland and Lithuania, denying their involvement in the Holocaust. These policies both seek to rewrite history and evoke malice toward the Jewish people. This is but one example.

Therefore, before his nomination is brought to the floor of the Senate, I ask you to ensure that Secretary of State designate Pompeo commits to filling the position of the Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism, thereby making it clear to the world that America stands firm against all forms of racial and religious bigotry, including anti-Semitism.

Sincerely yours,