United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2015

His Excellency Rachad Bouhlal
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
1601 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ambassador Bouhlal,

I write to you today to follow-up on our meeting almost two years ago to discuss the strong relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco and, in particular, current defense cooperation opportunities. The complex and uncertain security environment faced by both of our countries has made this historic cooperation all the more important.

As we discussed when we last met, our partnership could be further strengthened through one of our preeminent defense capabilities, the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. The export of Abrams tanks has been a model of security cooperation and has provided a significant capability to some of our closest allies. The M1 Abrams series of tanks remains the most capable main battle tank in the world, and we are reassured by the interoperability and capability it provides to our allies who have integrated the platform into their ground forces. The workforce and capabilities at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, where these tanks were originally produced and continue to be upgraded, along with the Stryker family of vehicles, make it the most advanced armored vehicle production facility in the world.

I understand that your Royal Armed Forces continue to evaluate embarking on this program. As these discussions continue, please let me know if I can be of any assistance. I believe integrating this vehicle into the Royal Moroccan Army would be an important advancement in capability for the force and a further demonstration of the close partnership between our two countries.

I look forward to discussing this project and our larger cooperation efforts at our next opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman

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