



*Embassy of the United States of America*

Athens, Greece

February 12, 2015

The Honorable John L. Loeb, Jr.  
Chairman  
George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom  
50 Broad Street, Suite 1137  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Ambassador Loeb:

Thank you very much for your letter to Ambassador Pearce regarding the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the letter from George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island. Ambassador Pearce has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Your organization's dedication to the goal of religious freedom is one we commend and share. As our nation's first President rightly noted in that 1790 letter, "every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid." The concept of protection of one's beliefs expressed in those words continue to resonate, as we engage all religious groups here in Greece on a regular basis, and also engage with the Greek government on religious freedom issues.

I would like to reiterate our appreciation for your letter, and rest assured that we will all continue our work to promote the religious freedom principles that we all value so deeply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Walker".

Peggy J. Walker  
Political Counselor