

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' request for membership to the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council:

"We must keep in mind the ultimate goal: two states, Israeli and Palestinian, existing side by side in peace and cooperation, with mutual respect, and without fear. The bond of our common humanity dictates this is a possible peace. But the necessary space for meaningful negotiation cannot be found in the sensational spotlight of the international stage. This week, the negotiation table has been abandoned for the press podium; a rigorous diplomatic process has been sidestepped. This does not further the goal of a just and lasting peace.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East.