March 28TH, 2025

To:

H.E. Marco Rubio

Secretary of State of the United States of America

U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C., USA

Subject:

Request for an Entry-Exit Visa for Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha to Visit the

United States

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned leaders of the following Albanian American organizations, together with our members and supporters within our communities, are honored to submit this formal request for the issuance of an entry-exit visa for Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Albania, to visit the United States.

Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha has been formally invited by our organizations to meet with the Albanian American community in the United States. As citizens of the United States and active members of our communities, we recognize the fundamental importance of democratic engagement and participation in Albania's political future. With the upcoming general elections in Albania scheduled for May 11, 2025, we seek the presence of Prof. Dr. Berisha to address our community and provide guidance on how we can best contribute to the democratic process in our homeland.

Prof. Dr. Berisha is a historical figure in modern Albanian politics, having played a pivotal role in Albania's transition from one of the harshest communist regimes to a free and democratic society. His extensive political career includes serving as a former President, two-time Prime Minister, and a ten-term member of the Albanian Parliament. Under his leadership, Albania undertook critical democratic reforms, including the restoration of religious freedoms, the establishment of a free-market economy, and Albania's accession to NATO. Furthermore, his efforts were instrumental in securing visa liberalization for Albanian citizens traveling to Europe.

Beyond his contributions to Albania, Prof. Dr. Berisha has been one of the strongest advocates of the strategic partnership between the United States and Albania. He was the first Albanian leader to hold direct meetings with U.S. Presidents and has played a key role in strengthening the diplomatic and economic ties between our two countries. His meetings with Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as the official visit of a sitting U.S. President to Albania, Mr. George W. Bush, demonstrate his commitment to fostering close relations between our two nations.

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It is also important to emphasize that Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha is the leader of the Democratic Party of Albania, which shares a long-standing ideological and political alignment as a sister party to the Republican Party of the United States. This deeprooted connection underscores the mutual values of freedom, individual rights, and democratic governance shared by both parties and their supporters.

Moreover, the Albanian American community across the United States has been instrumental in strengthening these ties, and has played a key role in supporting democratic movements abroad. In particular, the Albanian American community was also a vital and vocal contributor to the electoral success of the 45th and 47th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. This active civic engagement highlights our community's enduring commitment to American democracy and its foreign policy values.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the U.S. Department of State to issue an entry-exit visa for Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha, enabling him to attend these important engagements in the United States. His presence will reinforce the strong ties between Albania and the United States, furthering our shared commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your positive response.

With highest respect and appreciation,

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