

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 12, 2015

Dear MET Board members, staff, and all supporters who made today possible,

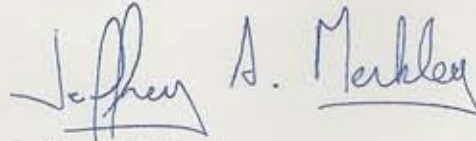
Congratulations on the grand opening of the Muslim Educational Trust Community Center. I know it has been a long journey in making today happen and I'm happy for the entire Portland Muslim community that you now have this beautiful new community center to call home.

It's especially important to celebrate this amazing new center given the recent rhetoric coming from Donald Trump and other Republican presidential candidates. Treating all Muslims as untrustworthy and unwelcome is a complete betrayal of America's values and plays right into ISIS' playbook, endangering U.S. national security.

Our strength as a nation is in our diversity, and Muslim Americans are an important and valuable component of our community here in Oregon and in the nation. I want you to know that I stand with you and will keep speaking out against the forces of division and discrimination.

This community center is a tangible representation of the roots and social contributions of Muslim Americans to our greater community, and today's grand opening is a fitting response to the hate speech swirling through our politics. I wish I could be there to celebrate with you in person, and look forward to standing side-by-side with you to make our city, our state, and our country better and stronger for everyone.

All my best,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator