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## **Kathy Barnette's Policy Statement on Horn of Africa**

In response to China's Horn of Africa push, Kathy Barnette, candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, has crafted a succinct and thoughtful policy statement.

The United States has profound interests in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia, but has done little in helping to develop this region or advance our shared interests. Subsequently, China has taken advantage of incoherent policies by maintaining their own base and investing heavily in the region. China is a hegemonic power, and it is counter to our interest to push developing nations into their arms.

This Administration has also embraced the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a terrorist group seeking to stoke conflict to seize control of Ethiopia. In support of the TPLF, the United States maintains sanctions on Ethiopia and Eritrea, stifling the economies of two of the world's poorest countries and souring our relationships with people who are sitting on substantial mineral and energy reserves. As Senator, Kathy Barnette pledges to seek an end to the Ethiopia and Eritrea sanctions. These are sovereign nations that have the right to secure their territories and work together to preserve peace. Barnette also believes that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was correct in 2014 when it argued that the TPLF is a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).

The United States appears to have no articulable Horn of Africa policy, despite the region's importance. The Necessary and Proper clause and Congress' enumerated powers make it Congress' job to provide oversight. But Congress still fails to ask substantive questions, demand reliable data, or engage the Executive Branch in formulating durable, reliable policies. Speaking on Congress' lack of oversight, Barnette emphatically declared, "This must stop! As Senator, I will not accept trite, partial explanations. I want to know what our policies are, how they relate, and why the President believes these policies address U.S. interests."

