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STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BREWER ISSUES STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
ISRAEL AND OPERATION PILLAR OF DEFENSE**

The government of Israel has launched a military operation in Gaza. It is an operation that is justified and, in fact, overdue. Like many Americans, I am supportive. Some people want the use of force to be a last resort. But it would be hard to imagine a case where Israel was more patient than Gaza. Sderot and the surrounding communities have been subjected to missile fire from Gaza for 11 years. With sickening regularity, rockets fall on civilian centers and hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens have mere seconds to flee to shelters. Israel responds, usually with modest force aimed at lower level operatives, the violence stops for a while, and then the cycle begins again. Thanks to JCRC and UJA, I have seen first-hand how close Gaza is to Sderot, not to mention the cities of Be'er Sheva and Tel Aviv, all within the missiles' expanded range. The focus must be on quieting the rockets and enabling all citizens to live in quiet, if not in peace.