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To the Ramah community:

As a proud Ramahnik, I am happy to wish a hearty *mazal tov* to Camp Ramah. To all of those who have built and shaped the Ramah experience over generations, congratulations on 75 years of cultivating and inspiring the next generation of Jewish community leaders. And to my friend Mitch Cohen, *kol hakavod* and *todah rabah* for your two decades of service to the Ramah Camping Movement and your significant impact on its legacy.

I have experienced firsthand the profound legacy of your efforts. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I had the distinct privilege every year to lead current and former Ramahniks visiting Washington for the AIPAC Policy Conference on a tour of the Capitol. Every year, I share my own experiences with them. Camp Ramah in the Poconos—where I was a camper, bunk counselor, and sports staff member—is where I first lived the fully Jewish and Zionist life, 24/7, absorbed the Jewish education, and engaged in the Israel advocacy and learning that set the table for all I was able to do in college, in the community, and now in Congress. Every year, I meet dozens of Ramah alumni and staff who are doing the same: living Jewish lives and using their camp experiences to lift up their communities. Many of my staff and interns have been alumni of the Ramah Camping Movement themselves, using what they learned at camp to embark on careers of advocacy and public service.

Like you, my time at Camp Ramah informs so much of my life today. The things I learned at camp, and that I aimed to instill in my children when they went to camp, are part of what compelled me to public service: the concept of *Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh B'Zeh*, of all Jews being responsible for one another, support for Israel, and the importance of pursuing justice. I carry these lessons with me still.

Growing up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, my Ramah friends were my closest friends and still are today. I am grateful that my own children were able to experience the magic and community of Camp Ramah for themselves at Camp Ramah Darom. I am inspired to think of how many more generations will be able to experience it for themselves over Camp Ramah's next 75 years.

To Mitch and to the entire Ramah Camping Movement: thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for this community. Here's to the many summers ahead.

Sincerely,

Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS