

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 9, 2015

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As longtime friends of Haiti in the United States Congress, we write to express our support for a strong United States commitment to free, fair and transparent elections in the country and to thank you for your recent travel there. As you know, Haiti is an important U.S. neighbor and partner in the Caribbean. After the country's devastating earthquake in January 2010, the United States rightfully invested billions of dollars in reconstruction in the country. We must continue to provide Haiti with this crucial support.

Moving forward, we can continue to stand with the Haitian people by supporting the current electoral process. As past experience has demonstrated, a credible and inclusive electoral process is critical for stability in Haiti. We believe it is crucial for the Organization of American States (OAS) and other international institutions to continue to work with Haitian officials to ensure that upcoming elections take place without irregularities and free of violence. Voter intimidation and violence of any form cannot be tolerated.

As you know, on August 9th, Haiti held long overdue legislative elections. OAS electoral observers found some irregularities but determined that these matters were not sufficient to invalidate the results. Local electoral observers expressed concern, reporting numerous incidents of fraud, violence and voter intimidation. Looking ahead, the first round of presidential elections, municipal elections and run-off legislative elections will take place on October 25th. Run-off presidential elections will be held on December 27th.

We believe it is essential that these next two rounds of elections meet basic international electoral standards and are seen as free, fair and legitimate by the majority of Haitians. To that end, we urge you to continue to provide necessary assistance to the OAS and other international and national observation groups and to offer the full support of the State Department to a robust Haitian and international electoral observation effort. It is also critical that the State Department send a clear message to the Haitian government underscoring the need to guarantee the security of voters and candidates during the electoral campaign and on the day of the elections. For a number of years now, our government has helped Haiti strengthen its national police; now is the time for the national police to demonstrate that it is able and willing to protect Haitian citizens as they exercise their most fundamental democratic right.

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Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to continue to stand with our friends in Haiti.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa



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Member of Congress



MIA B. LOVE  
Member of Congress



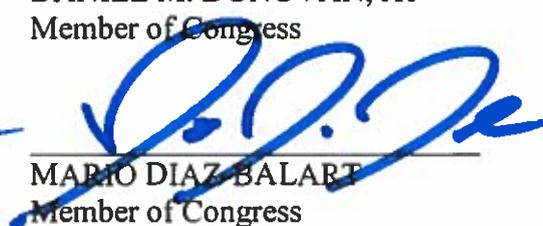
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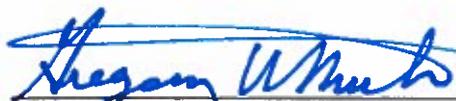
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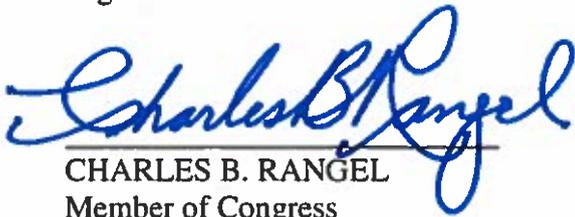


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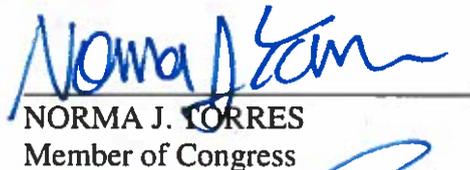
  
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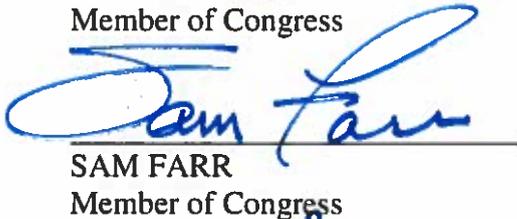
  
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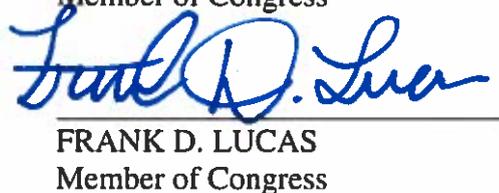
  
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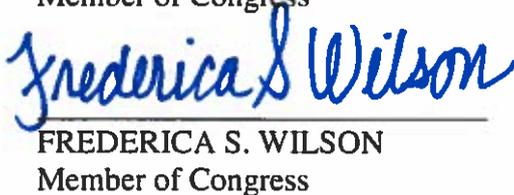
  
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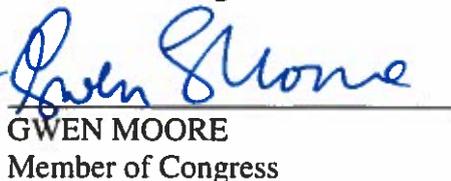
  
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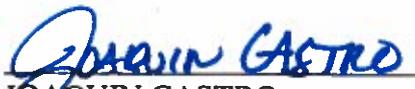
  
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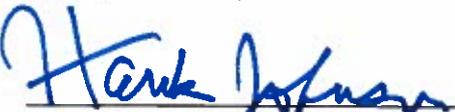
  
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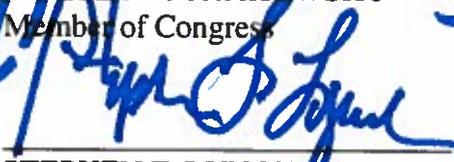
  
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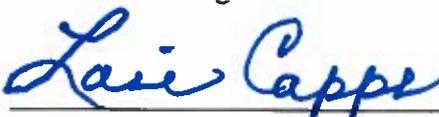
  
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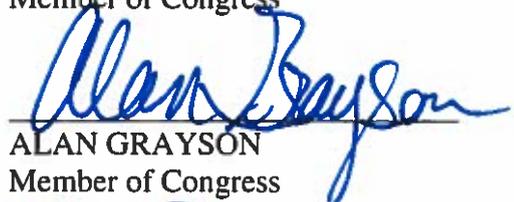
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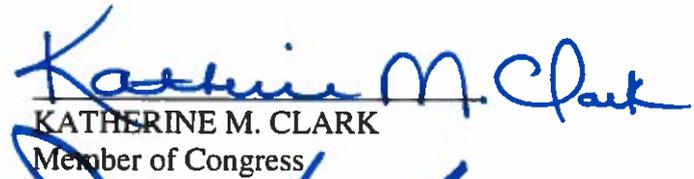
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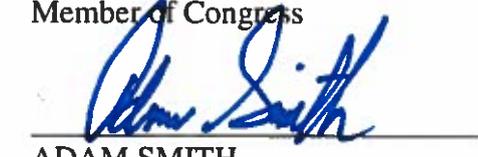
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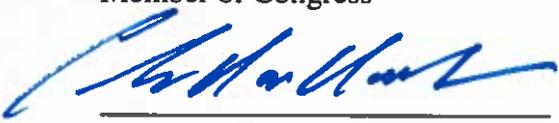
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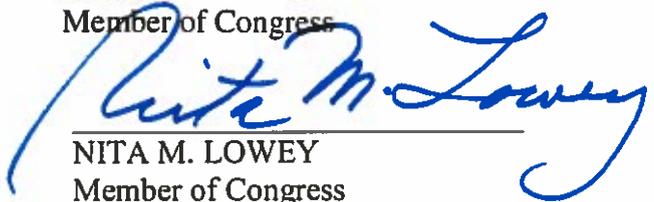
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STEVE COHEN

Member of Congress