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One Hundred Fourteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

December 15, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We recently learned of reports that President-Elect Trump's transition team has requested the names of individual employees who have worked on climate-change-related issues at the Department of Energy. We understand that the Department of Energy has rejected this request and will not single out individual employees.

This is the right decision, and, as members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, we urge State Department leadership to follow suit should a similar situation arise with regard to any of the Obama Administration's policy priorities.

We believe your Department should work to ensure a smooth transition of power. However, individual civil servants, Foreign Service Officers, and other staff should not be singled out for their work in support of policy objectives that clash with the next Administration's goals, leaving them vulnerable to retribution by the incoming Administration. In our view, gathering names in this manner bears striking resemblance to dark chapters in our history marked by enemies lists and political witch hunts.

We want to make sure you and the Department of State know that you have our full support as you seek to protect the Department's public servants.

To help ensure that individual employees aren't victims of retribution for carrying out their official duties, the Democrats on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will soon add a link to our website that will assist State Department and USAID employees in reporting unethical or illegal practices. Whistleblowers are entitled to protections under federal law, and we hope this new tool will help ensure that employees feel safe when reporting evidence of waste, fraud, and abuse of authority, including discrimination and other civil rights violations.

Thank you for all of your efforts.

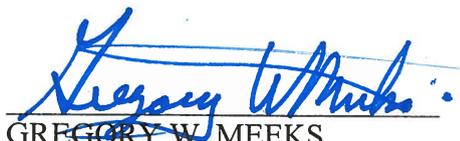
Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



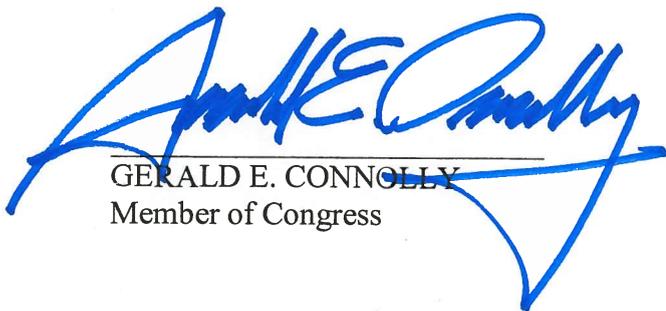
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Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and
Emerging Threats



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Subcommittee on Terrorism,
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DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



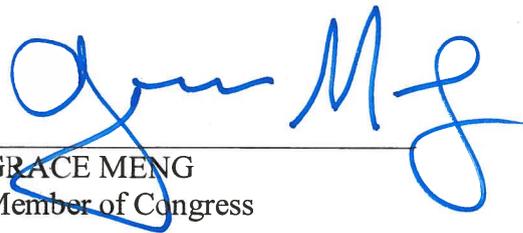
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AMI BERA
Member of Congress



ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



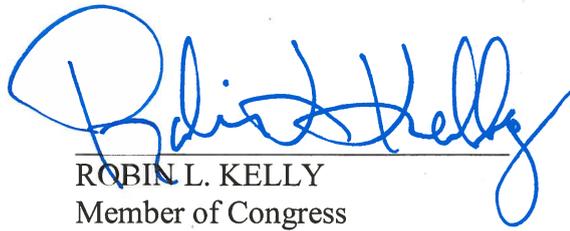
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