

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2007

The Honorable John D. Negroponte
Deputy Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Negroponte,

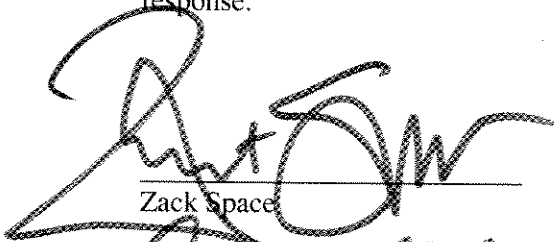
As members of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, we continue to appreciate the Department of State's approval of U.S. assistance to Greece to help rebuild lives, restore property, and prevent future catastrophes such as that unleashed by this summer's unprecedented wildfires. The initial, short-term U.S. aid package, consisting of \$1.9 million in technical assistance and firefighting equipment, has been instrumental in helping Greece recover from the disaster and in demonstrating American good will and sympathy for the people of Greece. However, there is still a long road of reconstruction ahead for Greece as she recovers from this tragedy. It is vital that the Administration support additional assistance to its ally at a time of significant long-term humanitarian, economic, and environmental need.

We are working diligently to structure FY08 appropriations that include financial assistance for reforestation, floor and erosion prevention, emergency management and preparedness, environmental recovery, improved irrigation systems, transportation and infrastructure reconstruction, and other areas of redevelopment. Given the timeliness of this issue and the short congressional calendar, we feel it would be appropriate to include this additional funding in the Iraq Supplemental appropriations bill or the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill before the measures make their way to the President.

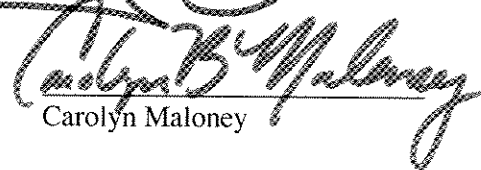
We ask for your support in incorporating this additional vital funding in either or both of these appropriations bills to ensure that the Greek people can begin to rebuild as soon as possible. Greece was one of the first nations to offer assistance and support after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and after devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. As a long time ally of the United States, we must continue to aid Greece as she rebuilds from this tragedy.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing your response.

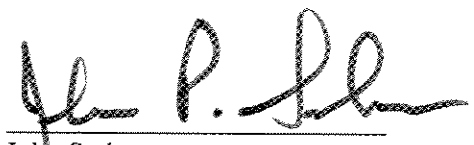
Sincerely,




Zack Space



Carolyn Maloney



John Sarbanes



Gus Bilirakis

Cc: The Honorable R. Nicholas Burns
Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs