

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our deep concern over the devastation suffered by Haiti as a result of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck near Port-au-Prince Tuesday evening. Initial reports indicate that the capital city has been largely destroyed, including hospitals and other first-response infrastructure. We appreciate that the Department of Homeland Security is focusing all available emergency response resources to ameliorate the impact of the earthquake and that removals to Haiti have been temporarily suspended.

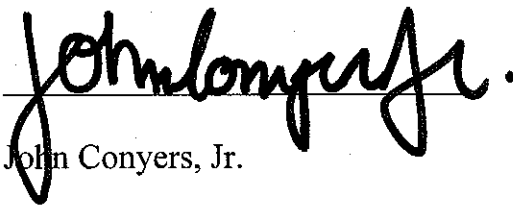
In addition to these initial emergency response efforts, we believe it is imperative that the Administration exercise its authority to designate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) pursuant to section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”). Many of us had previously written the Department in support of a TPS designation for Haiti after the country was crippled by four hurricanes and tropical storms in a three-week period in late 2008. Despite the massive devastation to living conditions that precluded Haiti from safely handling the return of its nationals then in the United States, no such designation occurred at that time.

Tuesday’s earthquake plunged Haiti into chaos while the country was still struggling to recover from the ongoing humanitarian crisis resulting from the 2008 storms. It is abundantly clear that extraordinary and temporary conditions now exist preventing Haiti from being able to adequately and safely handle the return of its nationals currently in the United States. Haiti has officially requested TPS

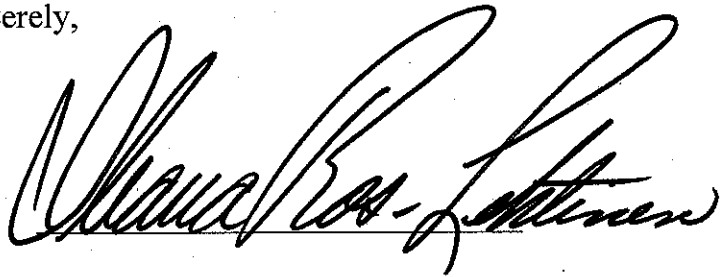
on multiple prior occasions and we believe such requests allow the Administration to designate Haiti for TPS pursuant to INA section 244(b)(1)(B). Regardless, authority exists under INA section 244(b)(1)(C) to designate a foreign state without such a request if "there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state that prevent aliens who are nationals of the state from returning to the state in safety."

We hope that you carefully consider this request and would appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

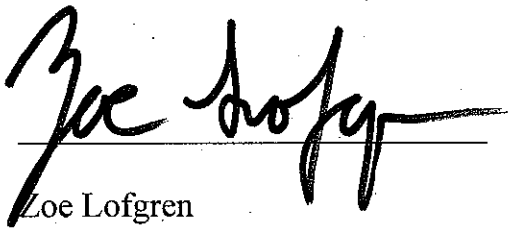
Sincerely,



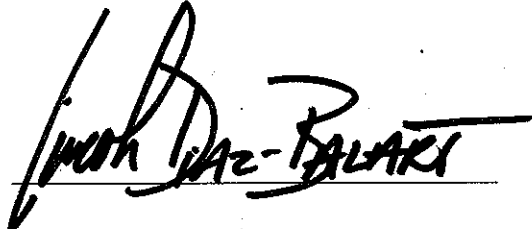
John Conyers, Jr.



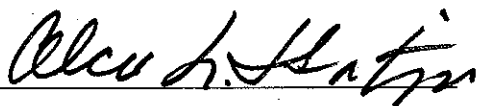
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



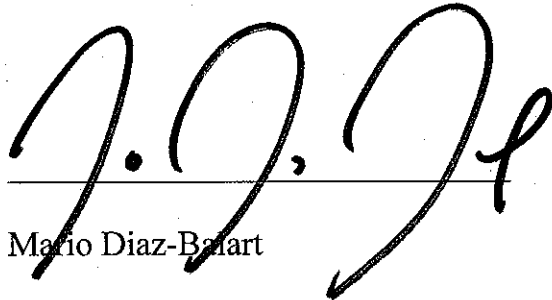
Zoe Lofgren



Lincoln Diaz-Balart



Alcee Hastings



Mario Diaz-Balart

cc:

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Carl Cao

Debbie Wassenaar

Aaron Schock

Howard & Bernice

Edith L. Engel

Therese Lee

Hank Pearson

Dr. V. Peters

George Miller

Jim Moran

Jim O'Leary

Joe Schaefer

Melvin & Weta

Josephine Madala

Bill Lee

Baron Lee

Tony Baldini

Judy Che

Amel Beckwith

Victoria Hahn

Rail M. Hijab

Sven Zhou

Andre Censure

Kelly & Steve

Bob Fike

Bob Fike

Chaka Fawcett

Marion Perry

Jessie M. Brown

Peter J. Kennedy

Donna F. Edwards

Ann C. Elin

R. L. Sum

Neil Loman

Yvette D. Clarke

Steve Cohen

John W. Oliver

Sam Fan

Michael E. Capron

Rita J. Sney

Quinn Liss

Jared Polli

Mary L Ackerman

Lois

Carl B. Malroy

Bill Panel Jr.

Steve Ford

Mary Jo Hilroy

Wila Bigley

Joe E. Swann

Aster Davis

Kathy Dabbs

Wicki

Madeline J. Bordallo

Lynn Woolsey

Chris Smith

Carolyn McCarthy Charles B. Rangel

Amelia Antonia Ally L. M.

Ruben Figueroa

Earl Blumenauer

[Signature]

Blair P. Kelly

Ken A. Waxman

[Signature]

Gregory Weeks

Corinne Brown

Diane E. Watson

Nydia M. Veloz

John Lewis

Alphonse

Jim Larkin

Quinn

Alan Grayson

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Jeffery

List of Signatures

1. John Conyers, Jr.
2. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
3. Zoe Lofgren
4. Lincoln Diaz-Balart
5. Alcee Hastings
6. Mario Diaz-Balart
7. Anh "Joseph" Cao
8. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz
9. Aaron Schock
10. Howard L. Berman
11. Eliot L. Engel
12. Sheila Jackson Lee
13. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
14. Luis V. Gutierrez
15. George Miller
16. James P. Moran
17. James L. Oberstar
18. Janice D. Schakowsky
19. Melvin L. Watt
20. Jerrold Nadler
21. Bill Delahunt
22. Barbara Lee
23. Tammy Baldwin
24. Judy Chu
25. Jesse Jackson, Jr.
26. Michael M. Honda
27. Raul M. Grijalva
28. Gwen Moore
29. Ander Crenshaw
30. Bobby L. Rush
31. Bob Filner
32. Adam Schiff
33. Chaka Fattah
34. Marion Berry
35. Jim McGovern
36. Patrick J. Kennedy
37. Donna F. Edwards
38. James A. Himes
39. Al Green
40. Rick Larsen
41. Yvette D. Clark
42. Steve Cohen
43. John W. Olver
44. Sam Farr
45. Michael E. Capuano

46. Linda T. Sanchez
47. Albio Sires
48. Jared Polis
49. Gary L. Ackerman
50. Edolphus Towns
51. Carolyn B. Maloney
52. Bill Pascrell, Jr.
53. Steve Israel
54. Mary Jo Kilroy
55. Mike Quigley
56. Jose E. Serrano
57. Artur Davis
58. Kathleen A. Dahlkemper
59. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan
60. Madeleine Z. Bordallo
61. Lynn Woolsey
62. Chris Smith
63. Carolyn McCarthy
64. Charles B. Rangel
65. Ruben Hinojosa
66. Earl Blumenauer
67. Anthony D. Weiner
68. Solomon P. Ortiz
69. Henry A. Waxman
70. Silvestre Reyes
71. Gregory W. Meeks
72. Corrine Brown
73. Diane E. Watson
74. Nydia M. Velazquez
75. John Lewis
76. Stephen F. Lynch
77. Jim Langevin
78. Pedro R. Pierluisi
79. Alan Grayson
80. Eddie Bernice Johnson
81. John A. Yarmouth