

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

June 30, 2005

President George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

On behalf of the American people, you will soon have an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate our commitment and determination to erase poverty in Africa. We write to strongly encourage you to make America proud by declaring our unwavering support for the recommendations of the Commission on Africa at the upcoming Group of Eight (G-8) Summit in Scotland.

The recommendations – to increase foreign assistance, eliminate debt, reform farm subsidies, and remove trade barriers – provide meaningful steps to invigorate economic opportunity across Africa and inspire hope on a continent where nearly a billion people are forced to survive on one dollar a day. Surely, America's compassion can shine across Africa. Unquestionably, America can lead a global fight against poverty in sub Saharan Africa.

Democrats in the House of Representatives will stand shoulder to shoulder with you to implement an agreement to help the world's poor. We urge you to demonstrate bold leadership in Scotland and make a long term commitment to Africa's people. To demonstrate our commitment and provide you with deeds to reinforce your words in Scotland, we have introduced The Answer Africa's Call Act.

The Answer Africa's Call Act is landmark legislation that recognizes that the plight of the world's poor is not lost upon the nation that is home to many of the world's most affluent people. This legislation would double U.S. foreign assistance to sub Saharan Africa for the next five years. It would provide another \$6 billion in annual, guaranteed revenues to tackle the scourges and pandemics confronting Africa, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. Furthermore, The Answer Africa's Call Act would eliminate tariffs on agricultural products coming from sub Saharan Africa and enhance and extend provisions found in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the African trade initiative which brought Democrats and Republicans together to make a positive and compelling difference.

Democrats in the House of Representatives stand ready to implement the recommendations from the Commission on Africa. We ask you to demonstrate to the

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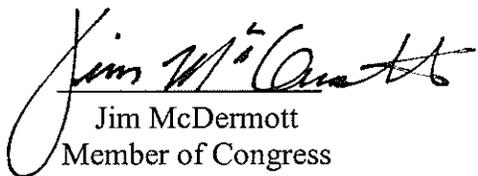
world that America is willing, able, and ready. The Answer Africa's Call Act is surely not the last word on a comprehensive policy toward Africa, but it represents a giant leap forward in proving that America can respond to the hundreds of millions of people who look to us for compassion and leadership.

Mr. President, you have an historic opportunity just ahead, and we encourage you to speak boldly and act decisively. Together, as one nation, as one community of nations, we can unite to achieve one destiny: to make poverty history. We can begin by fighting poverty in Africa and contributing to something greater than ourselves.

We are committed to The Answer Africa's Call Act to fight global poverty, but we cannot take this step unless you seize the opportunity the G-8 Summit provides. We want to work with you to unite our country and our world behind the just and noble humanitarian commitment to end global poverty.

We wish you courage and success at the G-8, Mr. President.

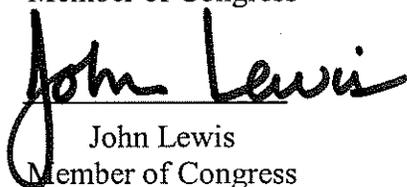
Sincerely yours,

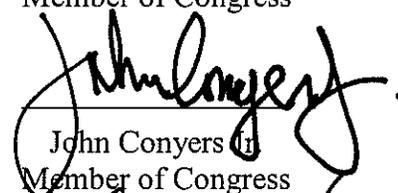
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

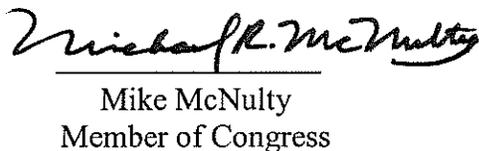
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

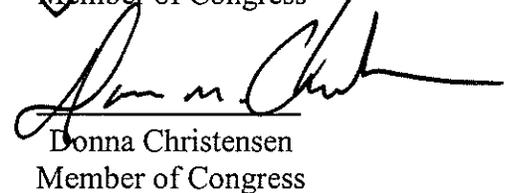
  
Donald Payne  
Member of Congress

  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers  
Member of Congress

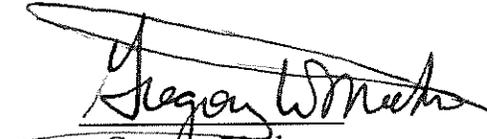
  
Mike McNulty  
Member of Congress

  
Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress

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Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Member of Congress