

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

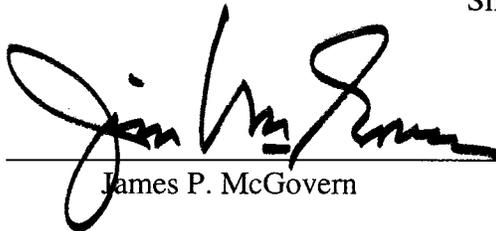
We write to urge you to express your strong support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) Office in Colombia and the full renewal of its existing mandate. We believe the UNHCHR Office in Bogotá, Colombia plays a highly credible and invaluable role in the promotion of human rights in the country.

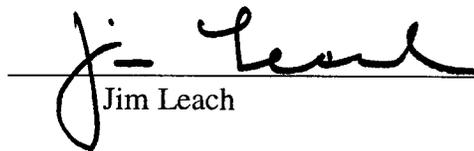
The UNHCHR has had a field office in Colombia since 1996. The Office's mandate, which has been renewed several times, allows it to offer advice and technical support to Colombian government bodies with human rights responsibilities, to monitor the country's human rights situation, and to issue publicly available reports and recommendations. The latter, in particular, have provided invaluable objective evaluations of the key human rights challenges confronting Colombia. The Office has also served as a critical independent observer of compliance with international law by all parties to Colombia's conflict.

This mandate is to expire in a few months, and we believe it is critical that the UNHCHR Colombia Office existing mandate be fully renewed. The UNHCHR Office in Bogotá has consistently set a high standard for human rights monitoring and reporting. It is essential that its confidential advice, knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian law, and internationally-respected public reports and recommendations continue.

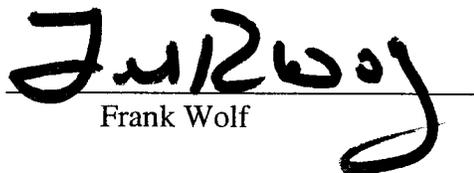
We urge you to express strongly and clearly to the Colombian government the State Department's full support for the renewal of the existing mandate of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Office in Colombia.

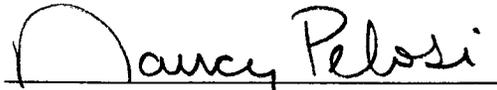
Sincerely,

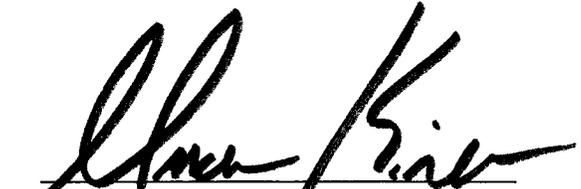

James P. McGovern


Jim Leach

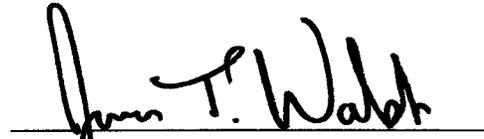

Tom Lantos

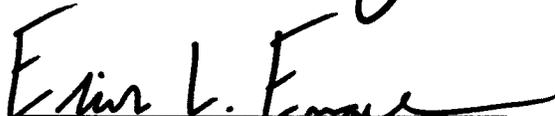

Frank Wolf


Nancy Pelosi


Mark S. Kirk


Nita M. Lowey


James T. Walsh


Eliot Engel


Joseph R. Pitts


Howard L. Berman


Judy Biggert


Rosa DeLauro


Christopher Shays


Charles B. Rangel


James L. Oberstar


Barney Frank

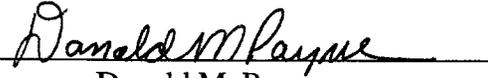

Henry A. Waxman



John Conyers



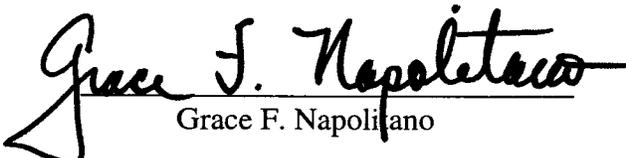
Sander M. Levin



Donald M. Payne



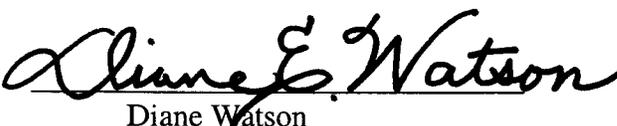
Barbara Lee



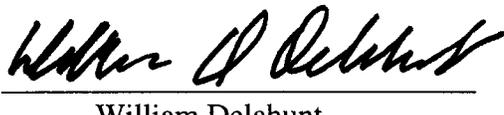
Grace F. Napolitano



Betty McCollum



Diane Watson



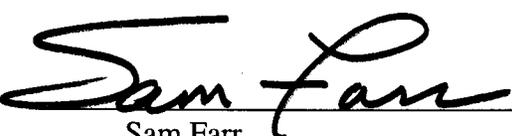
William Delahunt



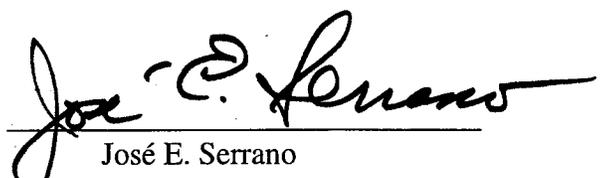
Earl Blumenauer



Steven R. Rothman



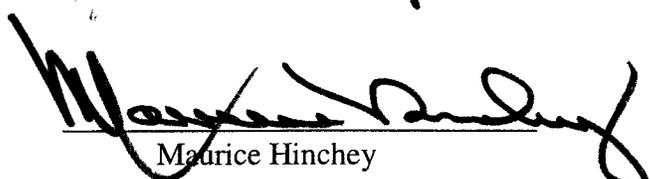
Sam Farr



José E. Serrano

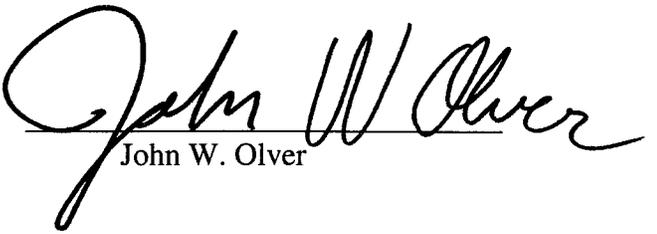


Chaka Fattah



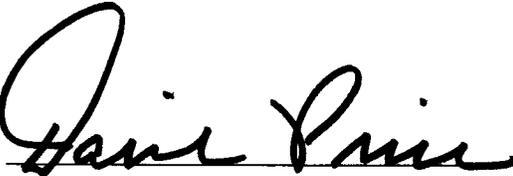
Maurice Hinchey


Jesse Jackson, Jr.


John W. Olver


Martin Olav Sabo


James P. Moran


David E. Price

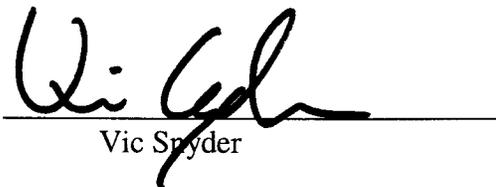

Neil Abercrombie


Zoe Lofgren

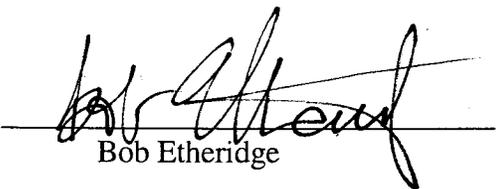

Rick Larsen


Pete Stark

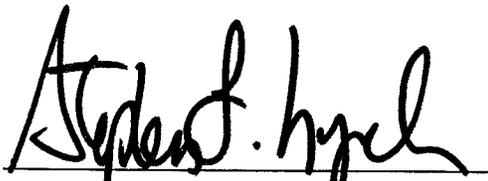

Edward J. Markey

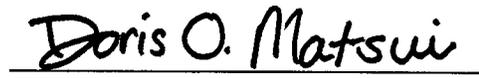

Vic Snyder


Rahm Emanuel

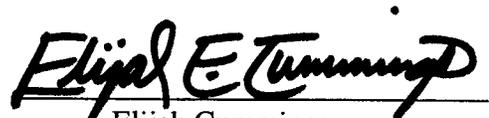

Bob Etheridge

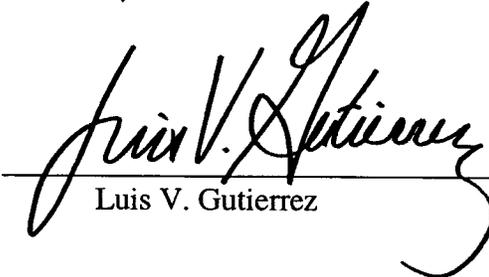

Peter A. DeFazio

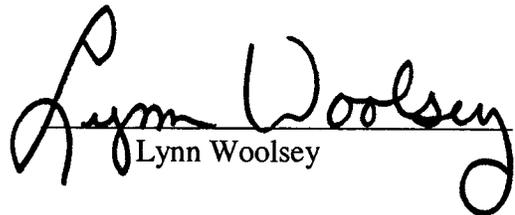

Stephen F. Lynch


Doris O. Matsui

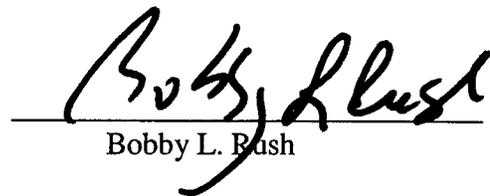

Tammy Baldwin


Elijah Cummings

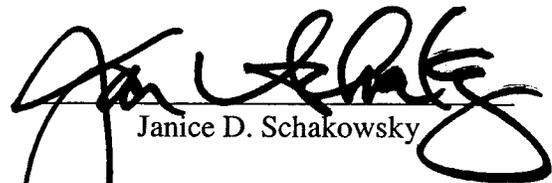

Luis V. Gutierrez


Lynn Woolsey


William J. Jefferson

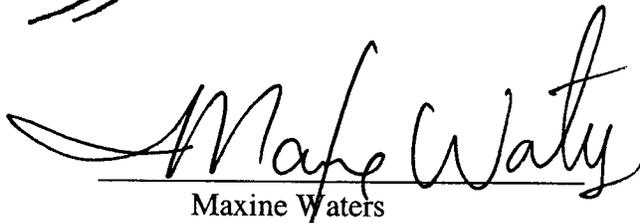

Bobby L. Rush


Raúl M. Grijalva


Janice D. Schakowsky

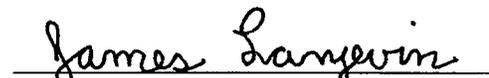

Juanita Millender-McDonald

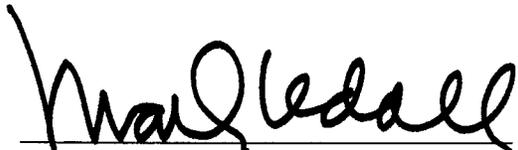

Hilda L. Solis


Maxine Waters


Rush Holt


Michael M. Honda

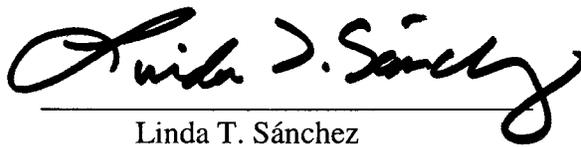

James R. Langevin


Mark Udall


Lois Capps


Charles A. Gonzalez

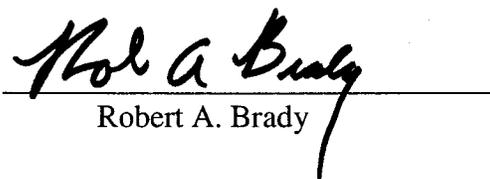

Jim McDermott

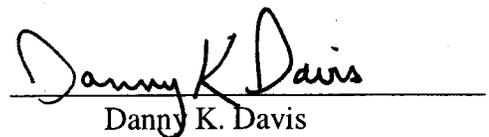

Linda T. Sánchez

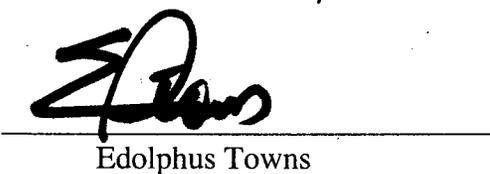

Mike Doyle

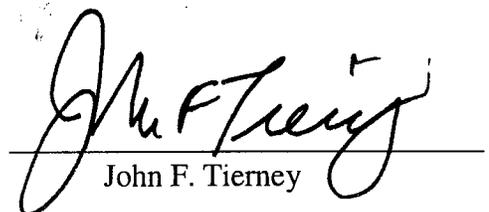

Brad Miller


Melissa L. Bean


Robert A. Brady

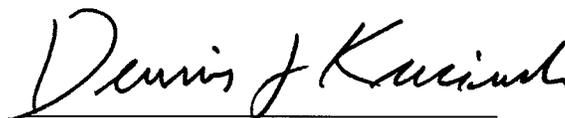

Danny K. Davis


Edolphus Towns

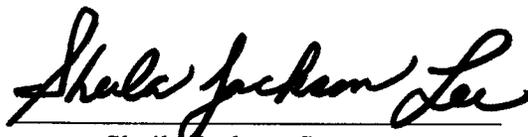

John F. Tierney



Dan Lipinski



Dennis Kucinich



Sheila Jackson-Lee



Al Green

cc: Thomas Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs
William Wood, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia
Kofi Annan, Secretary General, the United Nations
Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations
Francisco Santos, Vice President of Colombia