

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2007

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-218 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Ranking Member  
Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Wolf,

As you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year 2008 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, we ask that you give serious consideration to shifting the allocation of funds for the Colombia portion of the Andean Counterdrug Initiative towards greater investment in economic and social investment and to programs that work on behalf of the victims of violence and the internally displaced. We hope that such a shift would reflect, at a minimum, a 50-50 division between military/security assistance and economic/social investment.

It is our understanding that you have received detailed recommendations from U.S. and Colombian human rights, religious, labor and humanitarian organizations on how such a shift might best benefit economic and social development in Colombia and support the rights and the well-being of Colombia's most vulnerable populations. We will not, therefore, repeat these recommendations here other than to offer our support for them.

We urge you to craft a new direction for our policy in Colombia, one that stands with the victims of violence, and those individuals and organizations that represent them and/or defend their rights; supports an end to impunity; steadfastly protects and promotes human rights; strengthens judicial investigative and prosecutorial institutions (e.g. the Attorney General, the Inspector General, the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court); provides assistance and support to the internally displaced; and enhances successful counter-narcotics strategies, such as interdiction and professional, specialized DEA-trained counter-narcotics police units.

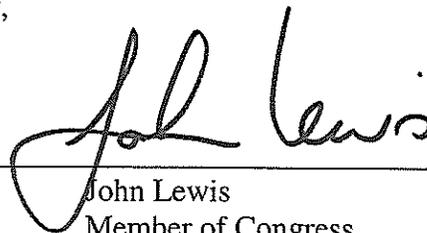
We look forward to working with you and supporting such an effort to aid and support the Colombian people.



---

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



---

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

*Rosa L. DeLauro*

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

*Howard L. Berman*

Howard L. Berman  
Member of Congress

*Dale E. Kildee*

Dale E. Kildee  
Member of Congress

*James Oberstar*

James L. Oberstar  
Member of Congress

*Sam Farr*

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

*Michael M. Honda*

Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

*John Conyers, Jr.*

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*David E. Price*

David E. Price  
Member of Congress

*Donald M. Payne*

Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress

*Janice D. Schakowsky*

Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

*Dennis Moore*

Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress

*Bobby L. Rush*

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

*Marcy Kaptur*

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

*John F. Tierney*

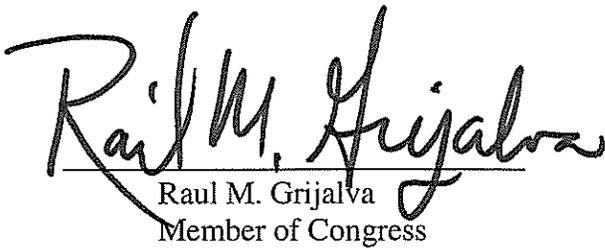
John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress

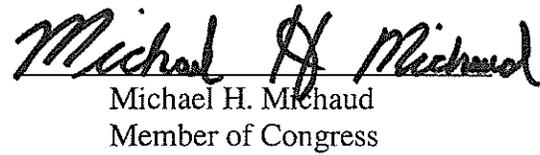
*Chaka Fattah*

Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

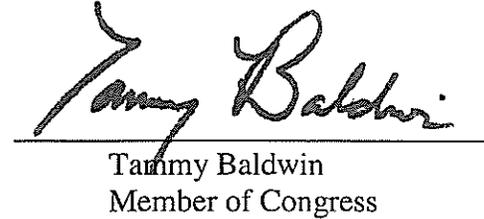
*Peter A. DeFazio*

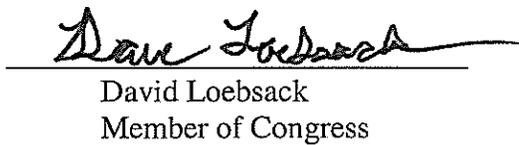
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

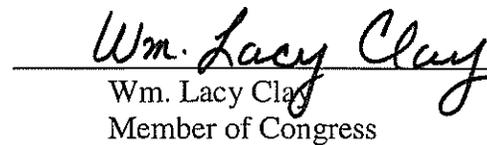
  
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

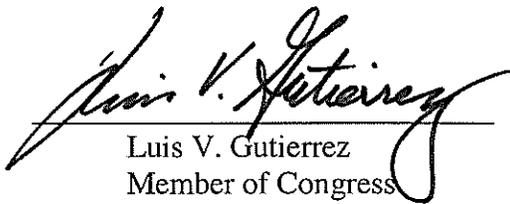
  
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

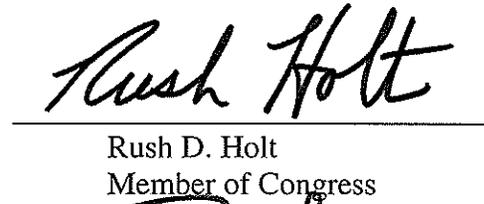
  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

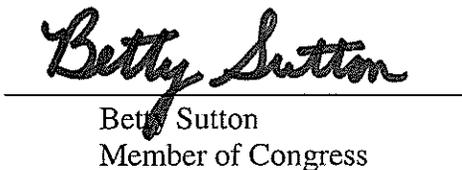
  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

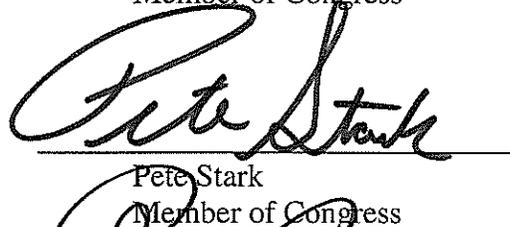
  
David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

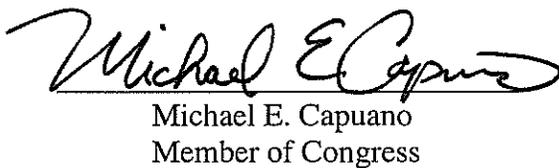
  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

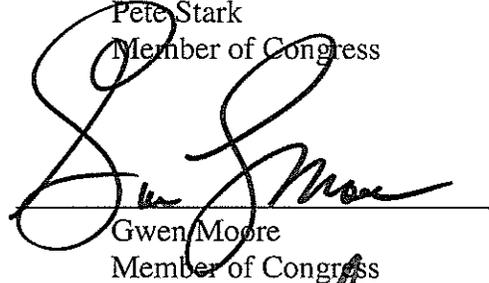
  
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

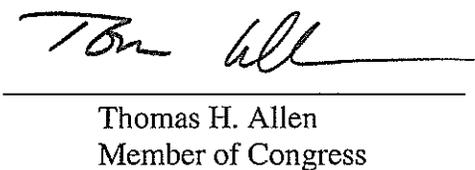
  
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress

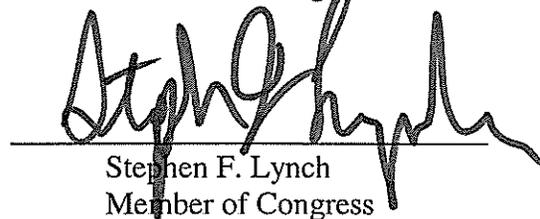
  
Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress

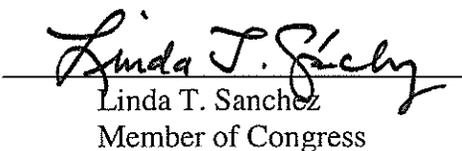
  
Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

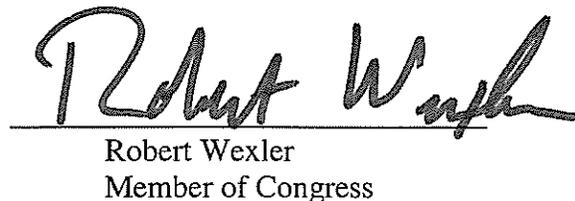
  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas H. Allen  
Member of Congress

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

  
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress

*Dennis J. Kucinich*

Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

*Lois Capps*

Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

*James R. Langevin*

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

*Michael R. McNulty*

Michael R. McNulty  
Member of Congress

*Timothy J. Walz*

Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress

*Eddie Bernice Johnson*

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress