

MARK POCAN
2ND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

ASSISTANT WHIP



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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 12, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Michael Froman
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Kerry and Ambassador Froman:

We write to express our concern over the Government of Brunei Darussalam's recently adopted penal code, which threatens the human rights of minority groups including women, religious minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and urge you to insist that Brunei address these human rights violations as a condition of the United States participating with them in any further Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade negotiations.

As Members of Congress, we believe that protecting fundamental human rights is a cornerstone of American values and must always be a priority in our relations, both diplomatic and economic, with foreign countries. The United States is committed to protecting the rights of religious minorities, LGBT individuals and women across the globe. Moreover, time and again, the United States has spoken out against anti-LGBT activity and discriminatory laws in countries like Nigeria and Uganda and against unequal protection of women, in countries such as Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, and against the persecution of religious minorities in the Central African Republic, China, and Pakistan.

Brunei's adoption of the revised penal code legalizes violence against its citizens, constituting torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment. The United States must make it clear that we will not tolerate such abuses. International trade partners have much to gain from an

economic relationship with the United States, and our trade agreements should insist that participating countries adhere to internationally recognized civil, political, and human rights standards. Targeting LGBT individuals or religious minorities and opening the door for discrimination and violence against women is a threat we cannot overlook, and should trade agreements like the TPP go into effect with the participation of human rights violators, the United States would lose its leverage to provide economic pressure on countries to reverse unacceptable policies.

As the world's largest economy, the United States holds a significant place in world affairs and must use this position to address human rights atrocities in countries like Brunei. According with all applicable rules and regulations, we urge you to insist that Brunei address these human rights violations as a condition before the United States enter into any trade negotiations.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



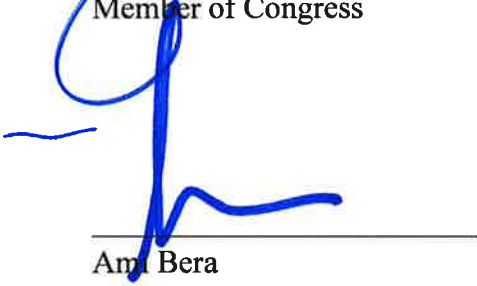
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



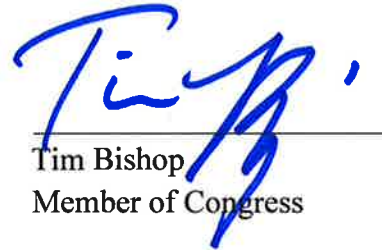
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



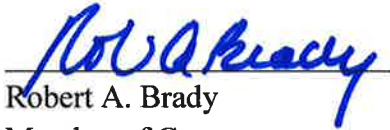
Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



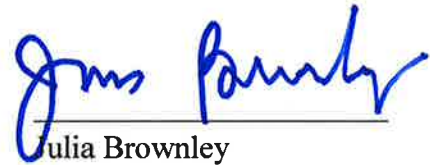
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



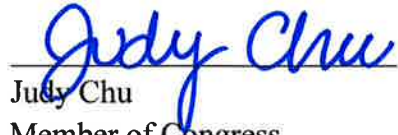
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



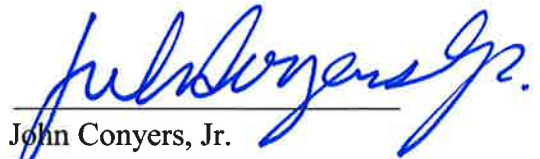
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



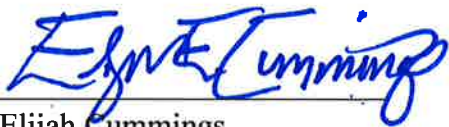
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



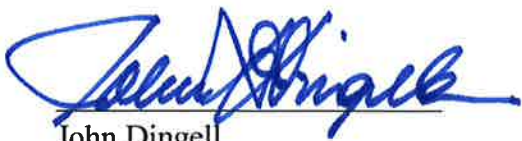
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



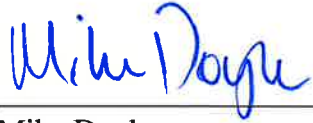
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



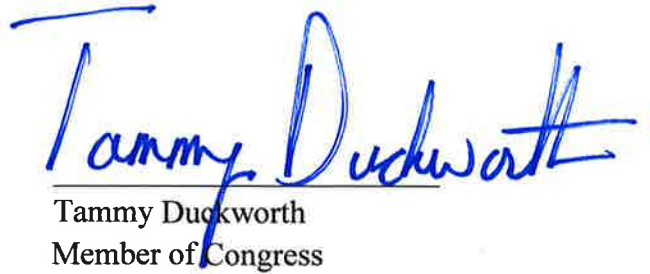
John Dingell
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



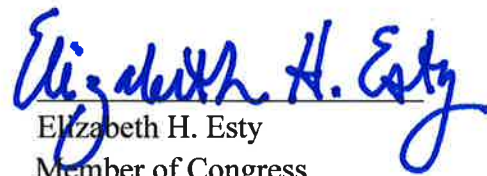
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



William Enyart
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



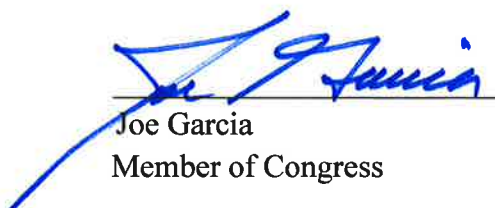
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress




Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress

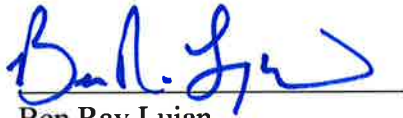

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



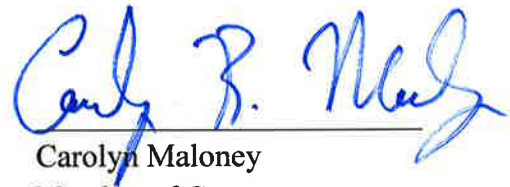
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



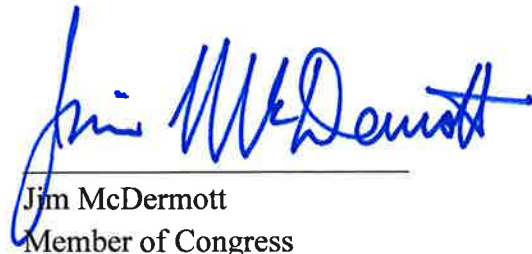
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



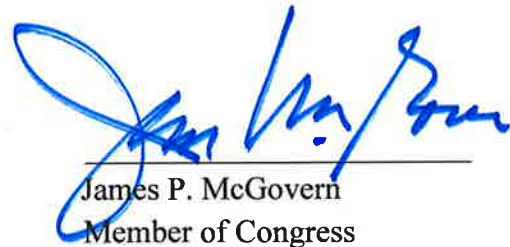
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



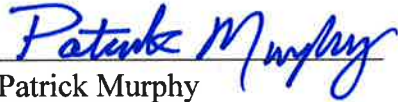
Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



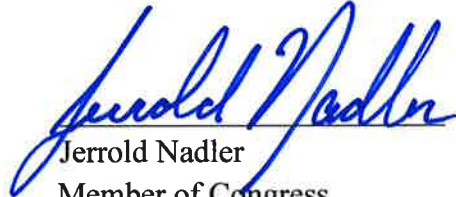
George Miller
Member of Congress



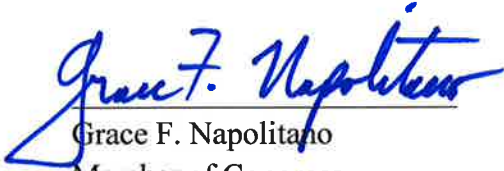
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



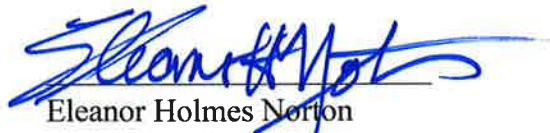
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



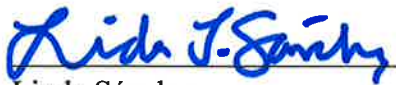
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



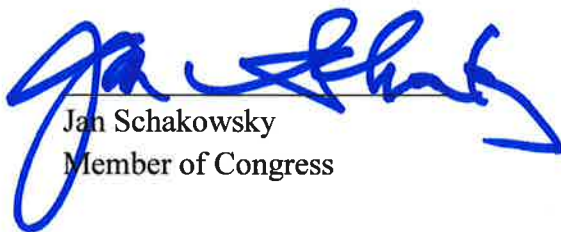
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



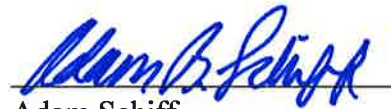
Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress




Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



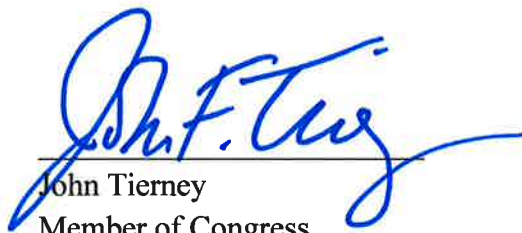
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress




Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress




Mark Takano
Member of Congress




John Tierney
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



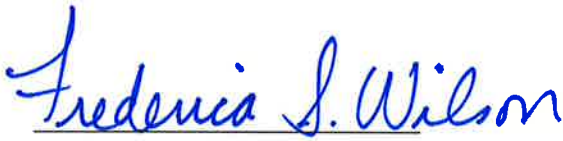
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress