

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2009

Mr. Robert B. Zoellick
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear President Zoellick:

We are deeply concerned about the urgent humanitarian needs of the people of Haiti and the difficulties Haiti has faced in qualifying for the cancellation of its debts. We urge you to suspend immediately all further debt service payments from Haiti and grant complete debt cancellation to this impoverished nation.

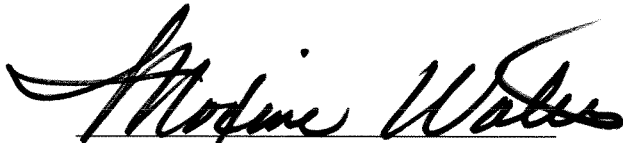
We were disappointed to learn that Haiti's progress through the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) Initiative has been delayed as a result of recent natural disasters, economic shocks, and political developments – together with a number of conditions from the IMF. At this time last year, it was expected that Haiti would reach the “completion point” for the HIPC program and receive complete debt cancellation in the last quarter of 2008. Now, however, Haiti's expected “completion point” date has been pushed back to as late as July of 2009. We understand that Haiti is scheduled to send approximately \$20 million to the World Bank in 2009. Clearly, this money would be better spent on basic infrastructure and poverty reduction for the Haitian people.

As you recognized when you traveled to Haiti last October, the loss of life and the destruction of infrastructure in Haiti after last year's string of hurricanes and tropical storms has been devastating. Sharp increases in food and energy prices have also led to an escalation of hunger among the poorest sectors of the population. Moreover, Haiti can expect to be severely and negatively affected by the recent downturn in the economy of the United States. Not only does the United States serve as a valuable market for Haiti's exports, Haiti is also heavily dependent on remittances from Haitians living in the United States.

Given these circumstances, we feel that the people of Haiti would be better served if the government was freed to use its limited resources to improve Haiti's democratic institutions, environmental conditions, basic infrastructure, healthcare, education, and justice system. Haiti's government has already acknowledged that the savings from debt relief would contribute significantly to its efforts towards these purposes.

We therefore urge you to grant Haiti complete debt cancellation as soon as possible. In the interim, before such cancellation takes place, we urge you to suspend immediately Haiti's debt service payments and allow the Haitian government to focus its attention on the needs of its people. We appreciate your continuing support for debt cancellation and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



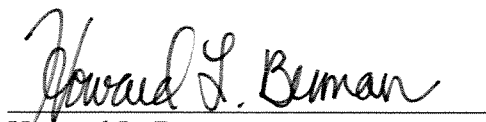
Barney Frank



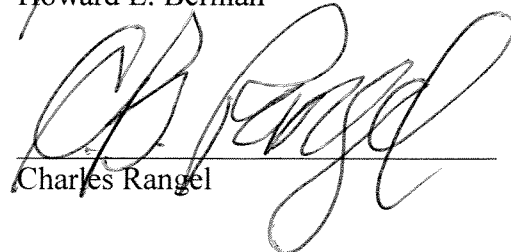
Alcee L. Hastings



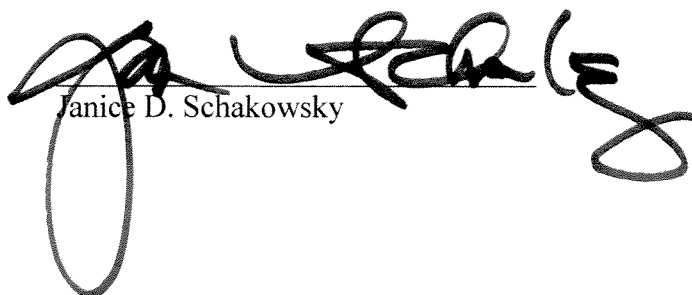
William Delahunt



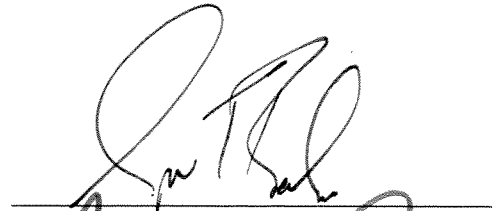
Howard L. Berman



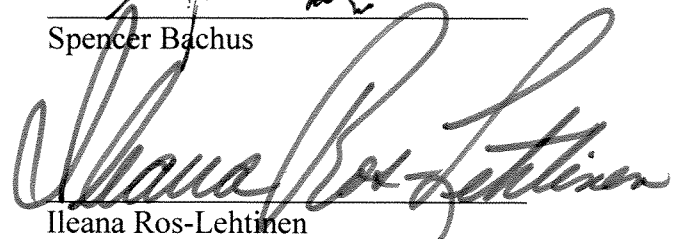
Charles Rangel



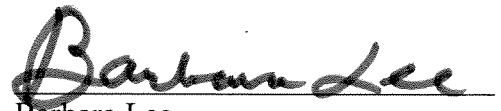
Janice D. Schakowsky



Spencer Bachus



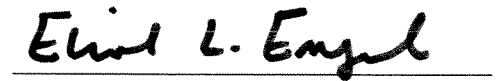
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Barbara Lee



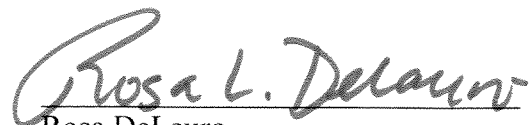
Donald M. Payne



Eliot Engel



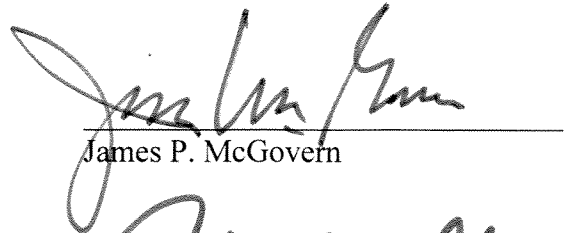
James L. Oberstar



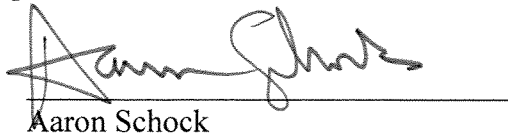
Rosa DeLauro



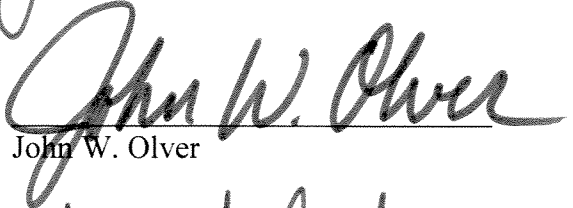
Mario Diaz-Balart



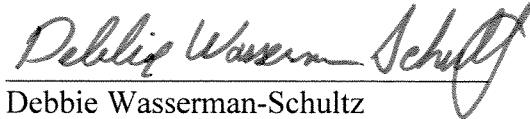
James P. McGovern



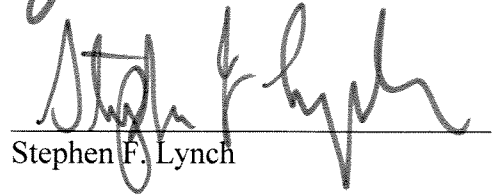
Aaron Schock



John W. Olver



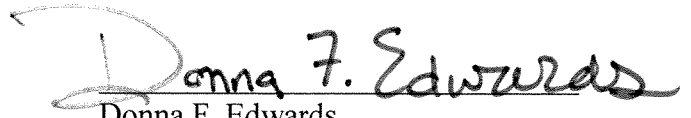
Debbie Wasserman-Schultz



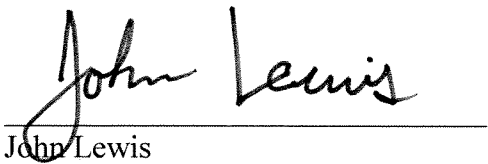
Stephen F. Lynch



Al Green



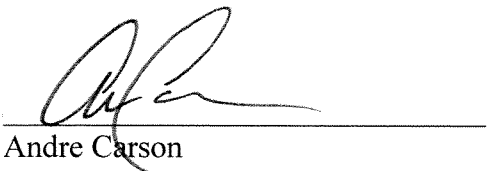
Donna F. Edwards



John Lewis



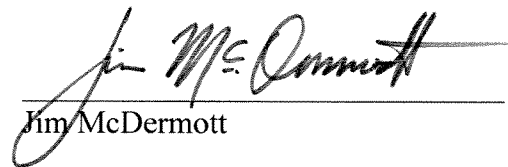
Michael Doyle



Andre Carson



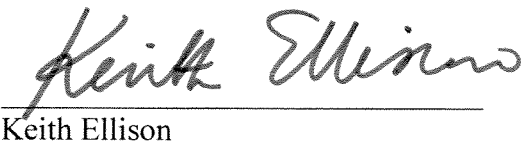
Albio Sires



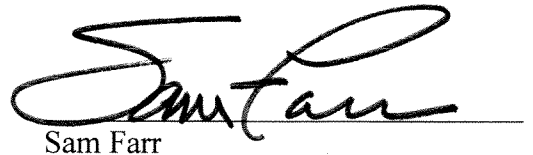
Jim McDermott



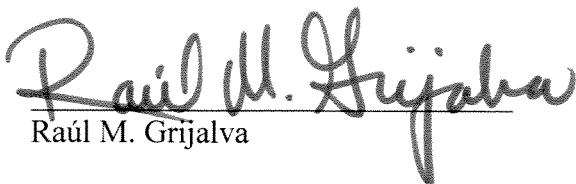
Kendrick Meek



Keith Ellison



Sam Farr



Raúl M. Grijalva



Gwen Moore



Michael E. Capuano



Donna M. Christensen

Marcia L. Fudge
Marcia Fudge

Alan Grayson
Alan Grayson

Michael M. Honda
Michael M. Honda

Dennis Moore
Dennis Moore

Anthony Weiner
Anthony Weiner

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Vic Snyder
Vic Snyder

Edolphus Towns
Edolphus Towns

Elijah E. Cummings
Elijah E. Cummings

James P. Moran
James P. Moran

Robert Wexler
Robert Wexler

Carolyn Kilpatrick
Carolyn Kilpatrick

Luis V. Gutierrez
Luis V. Gutierrez

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer

Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah

Melvin L. Watt
Melvin L. Watt

Carolyn B. Maloney
Carolyn B. Maloney

Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown

Diane E. Watson
Diane E. Watson

Gregory W. Meeks
Gregory W. Meeks

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay

Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Jesse Jackson, Jr.

John Conyers

John Conyers

Bob Filner

Bob Filner

Maurice Hinchey

Maurice Hinchey

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin

Edward J. Markey

Edward Markey

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Sheila Jackson-Lee

Sheila Jackson-Lee

Jose E. Serrano

Jose Serrano

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise M. Slaughter

David Price

David Price

Susan Davis

Susan Davis