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July 17, 2012

The Honorable Susan Rice
United States Ambassador to the United Nations
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
799 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3505

Dear Ambassador Rice,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the ongoing cholera epidemic in Haiti and to ask you to strongly encourage the United Nations to take a leadership role in addressing this catastrophic public health crisis. The outbreak began in October 2010, ten months after Haiti's tragic earthquake, and "has become one of the largest cholera epidemics in modern history" according to the Pan-American Health Organization. To date, at least 7,200 Haitians have died from the disease and more than 530,000 people have been infected. So as to ensure that this devastating disease is brought under control, we call on you to urge UN authorities to support efficient treatment and prevention of the epidemic and to help Haiti acquire adequate water and sanitation infrastructure.

As acknowledged by the UN's Special Envoy to Haiti, former President Bill Clinton, UN troops introduced the cholera bacterium "into the waterways of Haiti, into the bodies of Haitians" and, as such, were the "proximate cause" of the epidemic. We welcome your statement in March to the Security Council calling on the United Nations to "redouble its efforts to prevent any further incidents of this kind and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable."

As cholera was brought to Haiti due to the actions of the UN, we believe that it is imperative for the UN to now act decisively to control the cholera epidemic. UN authorities should work with Haiti's government and the international community to confront and, ultimately, eliminate this deadly disease from Haiti and the rest of the island of Hispaniola. A failure to act will not only lead to countless more deaths: it will undermine the crucial effort to reconstruct Haiti and will pose a permanent public health threat to the populations of neighboring nations.

According to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Haiti is one of the most underserved countries in the world in terms of water and sanitation infrastructure. These infrastructural weaknesses have made Haiti particularly susceptible to water-borne disease. Cholera had not been present in Haiti for over a century prior to October 2010, making Haitians 'immunologically naïve' and even more vulnerable to the disease.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has done a remarkable job in partnership with the Haitian government in distributing treatment supplies, providing treatment training, and establishing a national cholera surveillance system. The CDC estimates that cholera will likely persist in Haiti absent the development of water and sanitation systems, the cost of which has been estimated at \$800 million to \$1.1 billion.

On January 12th of this year, the presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, joined by UN agencies PAHO, World Health Organization and UNICEF and the U.S. CDC, appealed to donor countries to honor pledges and provide funds for water and sanitation infrastructure. However, there has been little response to this appeal from the international community. Moreover, with the onset of the rainy season, the number of deaths from cholera is rising once again.

Accordingly, we call upon you to urge UN authorities to play a central role in addressing the cholera crisis. First, by helping ensure that resources are in place to provide adequate treatment and prevention of the disease in the short term. Secondly, by taking the lead in helping Haiti and the rest of the island of Hispaniola acquire the necessary funding to develop the water and sanitation infrastructure needed to effectively control the cholera epidemic.

Finally, we ask that you encourage UN authorities and all donor governments involved in the effort to fight cholera to intensify their cooperation with the Haitian state and people through capacity-building and the active inclusion of government representatives in decision-making and through the regular consultation of civil society actors.

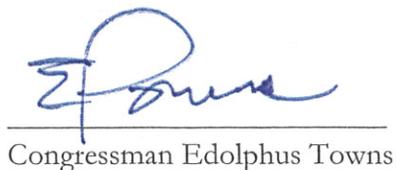
Sincerely,

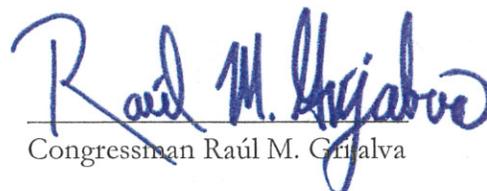

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

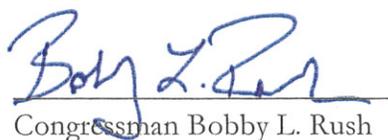

Congressman Steve Cohen


Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke


Congressman James P. Moran


Congressman Edolphus Towns


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Congressman Bobby L. Rush


Congresswoman Barbara Lee

David Price

Congressman David E. Price

Sanford D. Bishop Jr.

Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Eliot L. Engel

Congressman Eliot L. Engel

Chris Van Hollen

Congressman Chris Van Hollen

Bobby Scott

Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Emanuel Cleaver

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver

Joseph Crowley

Congressman Joseph Crowley

José E. Serrano

Congressman José E. Serrano

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Congresswoman Marci L. Fudge

Robert A. Brady

Congressman Robert A. Brady

James R. Langevin

Congressman James R. Langevin

Brad Sherman

Congressman Brad Sherman

Russ Carnahan

Congressman Russ Carnahan

Zoe Lofgren

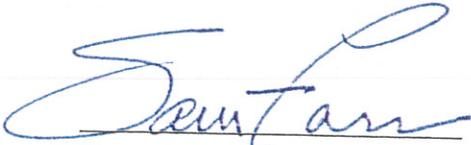
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren

Suzanne Bonamici

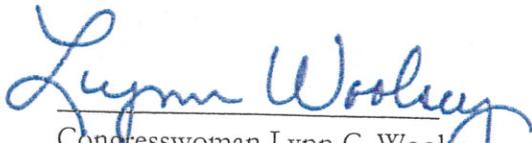
Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici

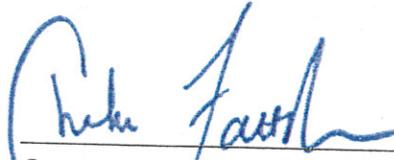
Susan A. Davis

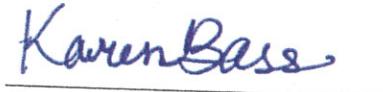
Congresswoman Susan A. Davis

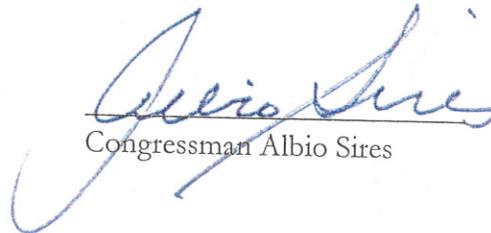

Congressman Sam Farr

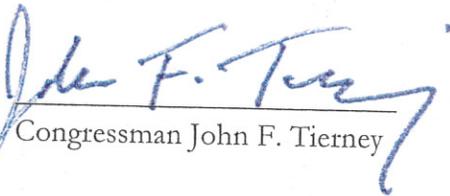

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings


Congresswoman Lynn C. Woolsey

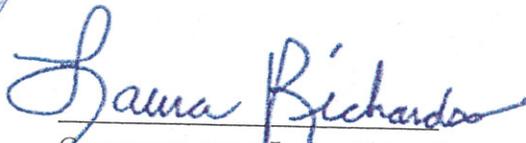

Congressman Chaka Fattah


Congresswoman Karen Bass

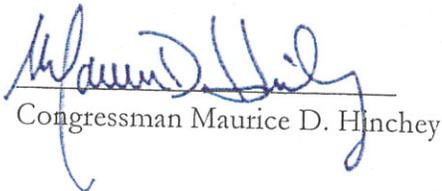

Congressman Albio Sires

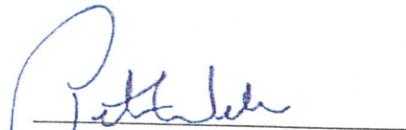

Congressman John F. Tierney

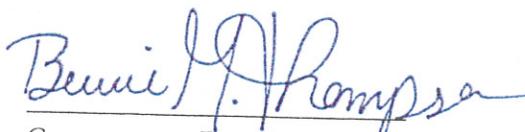

Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono

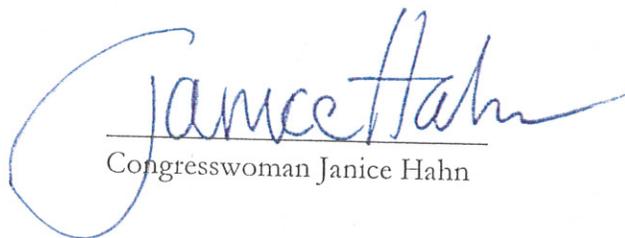

Congresswoman Laura Richardson

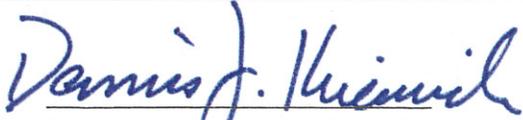

Congressman Rick Larsen


Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey

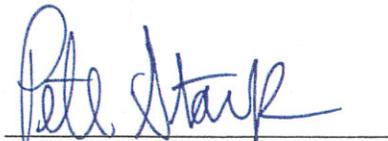

Congressman Peter Welch


Congressman Bennie G. Thompson


Congresswoman Janice Hahn

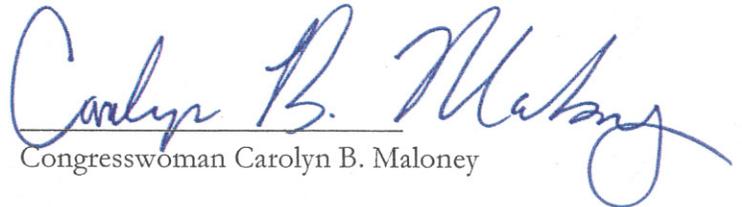

Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich

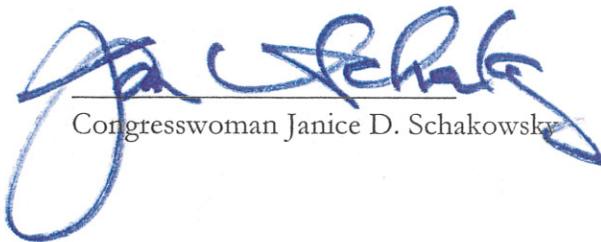

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards


Congressman Pete Stark

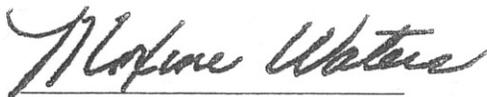

Congressman Charles B. Rangel


Congresswoman Corrine Brown


Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney


Congresswoman Janice D. Schakowsky


Congressman Hansen Clarke


Congresswoman Maxine Waters


Congressman Michael M. Honda

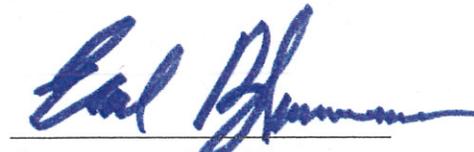

Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay


Congressman John Lewis


Congresswoman Betty McCollum

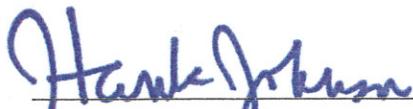

Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson

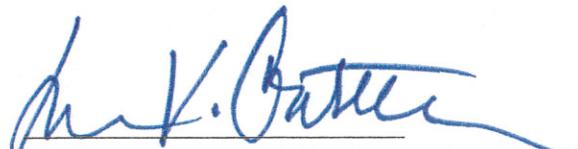

Congressman Michael E. Capuano


Congressman Earl Blumenauer


Congressman Jim McDermott

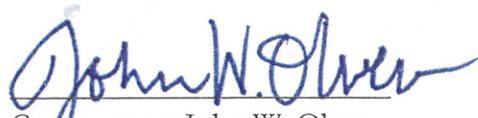

Congressman Keith Ellison

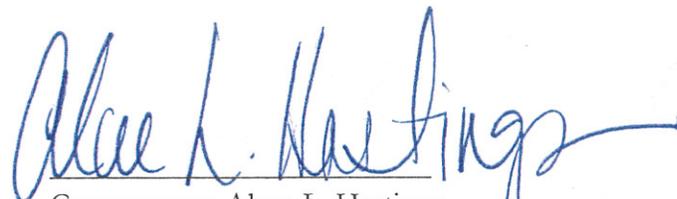

Congressman Hank Johnson


Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez


Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

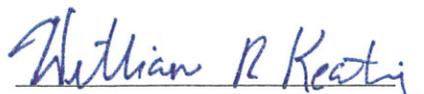

Congressman Theodore E. Deutch


Congressman John W. Olver


Congressman Alcee L. Hastings


Congressman Bob Filner

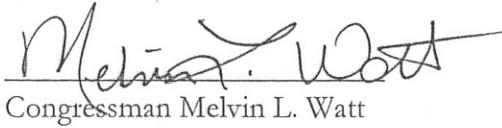

Congressman James P. McGovern

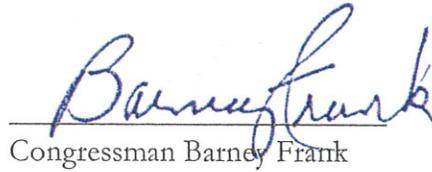

Congressman William R. Keating

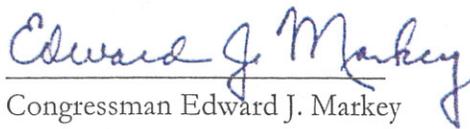

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

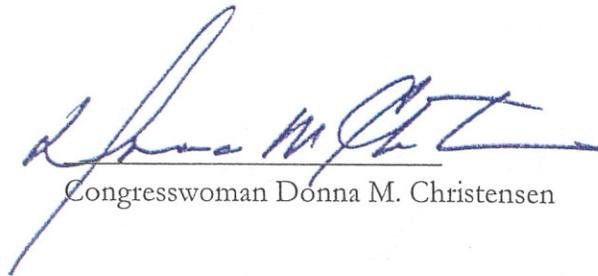

Congresswoman Gwen Moore


Congressman Al Green


Congressman Melvin L. Watt

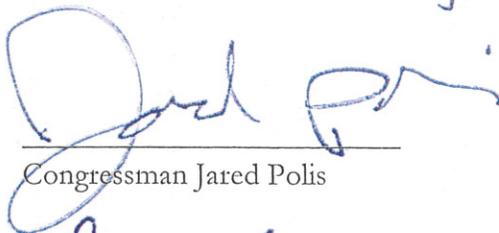

Congressman Barney Frank

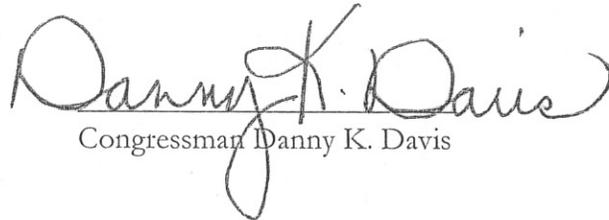

Congressman Edward J. Markey

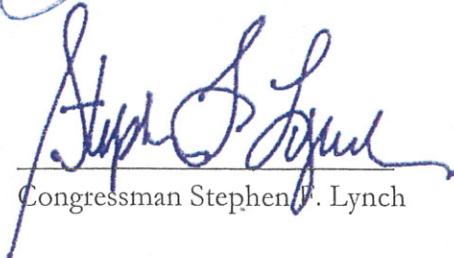

Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen


Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega

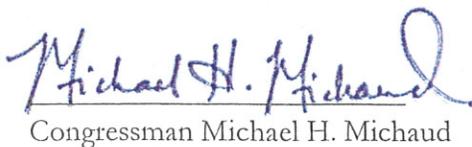

Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro

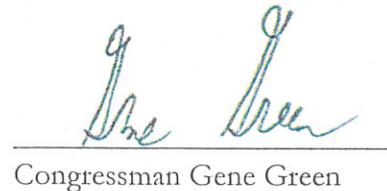

Congressman Jared Polis


Congressman Danny K. Davis

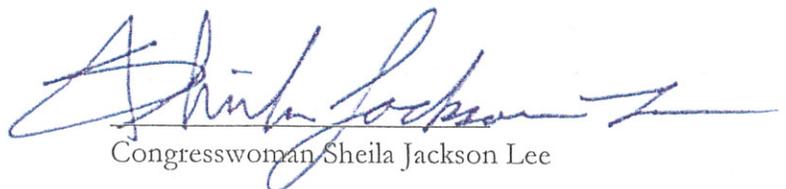

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch

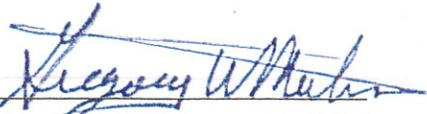

Congresswoman Kathy Castor


Congressman Michael H. Michaud


Congressman Gene Green

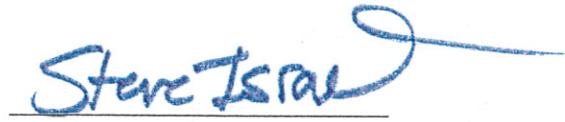

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz

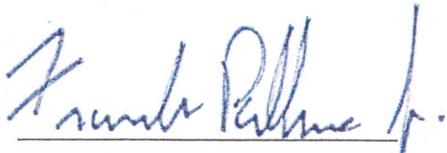

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee


Congressman Gregory W. Meeks

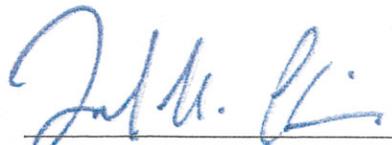

Congressman Peter A. Defazio


Congressman Henry A. Waxman


Congressman Steve Israel


Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

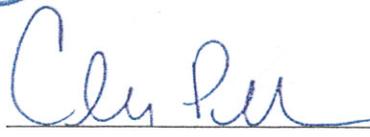

Congressman Steve R. Rothman

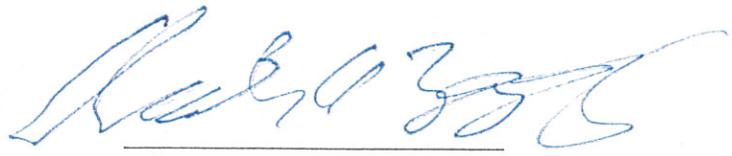

Congressman David N. Cicilline

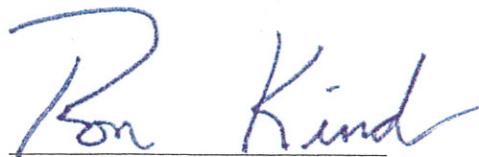

Congressman André Carson

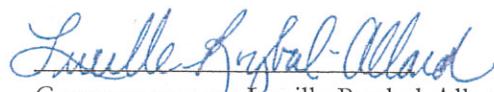

Congressman G.K. Butterfield

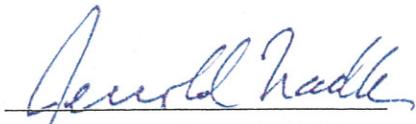

Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

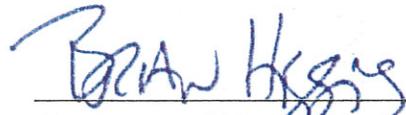

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree


Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez

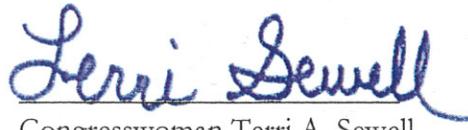

Congressman Ron Kind

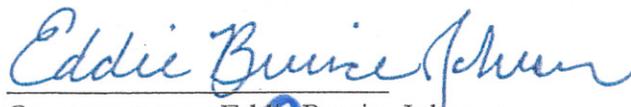

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard


Congressman Jerrold Nadler

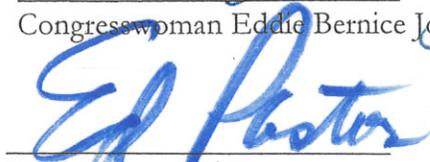

Congressman Brian Higgins

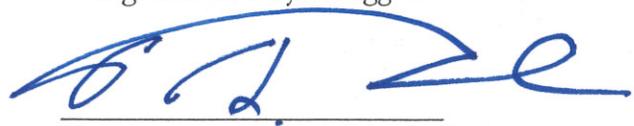

Congressman James H. Himes


Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell


Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson


Congressman Lloyd Doggett


Congressman Ed Pastor


Congressman Cedric Richmond