

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2009

The Honorable Donald Tusk  
Prime Minister  
Chancellery of the Prime Minister  
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3  
00-583 Warszawa  
Poland

Dear Prime Minister Tusk:

As friends of Poland in the United States Congress, we are writing you again to raise the issue of property restitution for individuals who had their properties seized or confiscated by the Nazis during the Second World War and by subsequent communist governments. While we greatly appreciate your public commitments to advance legislation addressing this important issue, we are hopeful that you will follow through on these commitments and move forward with fair and just property restitution and/or compensation legislation.

As you know, at the end of this month, your government, along with others in Europe, will have an historic opportunity to commit to resolving the issue of property restitution when the Czech government hosts the 'Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets,' a follow-up Conference to the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets. We believe that the Prague Conference may represent the last and best opportunity to resolve outstanding Holocaust-era issues during the lifetime of Holocaust survivors. Survivors and their heirs are paying close attention to this Conference, and rightfully expect the participating governments to commit to resolving issues that have remained outstanding for over six decades.

As you may be aware, on September 23, 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 371, a resolution strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution or compensation of property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes. Specifically, the resolution called on the government of Poland to immediately enact fair, comprehensive, and just legislation so that Holocaust survivors or their heirs are able to receive either restitution or compensation of their property. The resolution also urges your government to ensure that such legislation establishes a non-bureaucratic, simple, transparent, and timely process, so that it results in a real benefit to those individuals who suffered from the unjust confiscation of their property.

It is our understanding that during the Prague Conference, the international community will formulate principles to guide future property restitution/compensation efforts. The Conference is an opportunity for your government to publicly re-commit to introducing, passing, and implementing equitable and fair property restitution legislation which will provide victims of Nazi and Communist persecution with at least a small measure of justice during their lifetimes.

To that end, we respectfully request that you and your government provide a clear timeline at the Prague Conference for resolving this issue, a date when you expect legislation to be introduced and passed by the Polish Parliament, and information about how your government plans to implement this law, once enacted. Given the importance of this issue, it is our hope that the legislative and implementation process will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Providing this pertinent information at the Prague Conference would be welcome by claimants and members of Congress, considering that past commitments to resolve this issue have not been met.

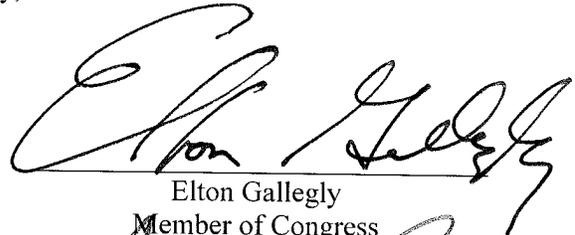
Prime Minister Tusk, as you know, an overwhelming majority of European governments have already signed into law property restitution/compensation legislation. In doing so, they sought to rectify historic injustices that impacted millions of individuals across Europe in the last century. The Prague Conference is the right venue for your government to follow the example of your neighbors and take bold steps toward enacting and implementing comprehensive property restitution legislation.

Over the past two decades, the U.S.-Polish strategic partnership has expanded and blossomed. We greatly value this special friendship which will continue to grow, and look forward to working with you and your government at the Prague Conference to address the property restitution/compensation issue which is of critical importance to many of our constituents across the United States.

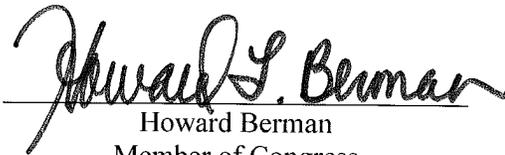
Sincerely,



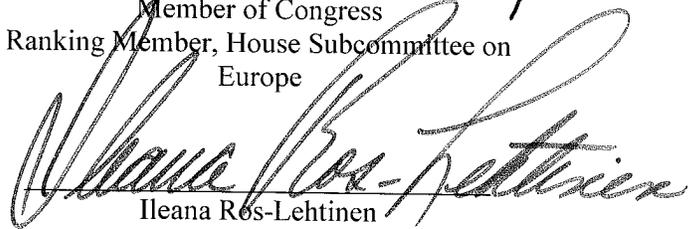
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Europe



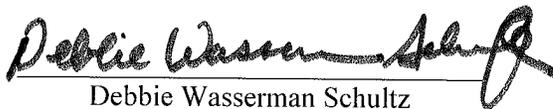
Elton Gallegly  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Europe



Howard S. Berman  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Ron Klein  
Member of Congress



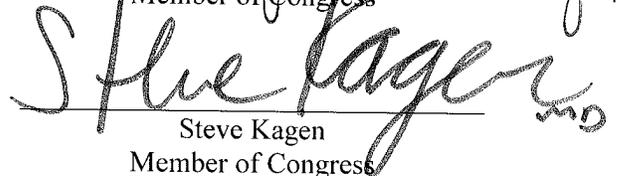
Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress



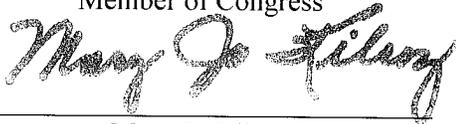
Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress



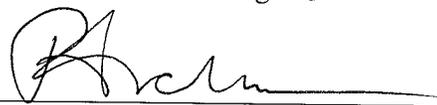
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



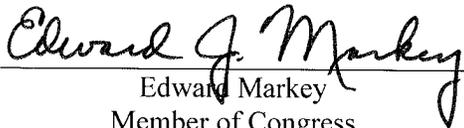
Steve Kagen  
Member of Congress



Mary Jo Kilroy  
Member of Congress



Paul Hodes  
Member of Congress



Edward Markey  
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress



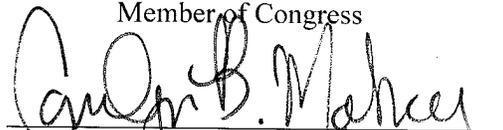
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress



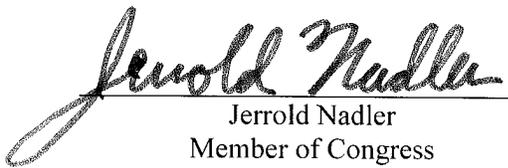
Gary Ackerman  
Member of Congress



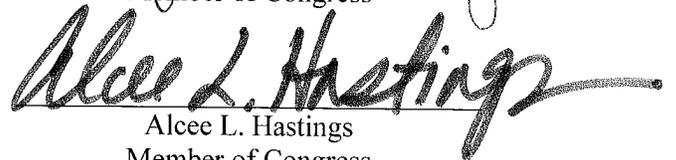
Steven Rothman  
Member of Congress



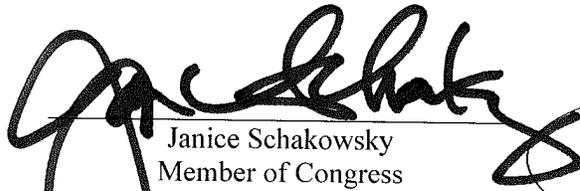
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

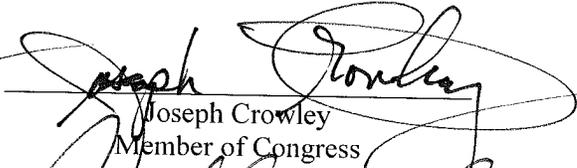


Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



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Janice Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



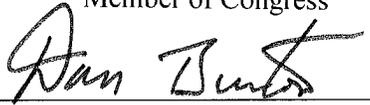
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Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



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Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Dan Burton  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Ambassador J. Christian Kennedy, U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki