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10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
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November 22, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Timothy Geithner
Secretary of the Treasury
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Clinton and Secretary Geithner:

We are writing to show our strong support for a just and ambitious United States position at the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) summit in Durban, South Africa, starting in November 2011.

The upcoming negotiations in South Africa present an important opportunity to make progress on addressing climate change. It is of particular importance to Africa, which is both acting as host to this year's summit and is facing many of the most severe impacts of a changing climate, including serious threats to food security.

This year, researchers found that global production of corn likely fell more than five percent in the last three decades because of climate change. Such drops in food production have contributed to increased global food prices, which have in turn led to social instability in some countries and have undermined the food security of vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, the unprecedented number and intensity of disasters in 2011 falls squarely in line with climate science projections of increasingly severe and frequent floods, droughts, and other disasters. Tragically, communities living in poverty, those who have done the least to cause the problem, are also the most affected by it.

Ambitious and urgent action by the US to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help poor countries and communities adapt to climate impacts, protect forests, and embark on clean development pathways is both a moral imperative and in our national interest. Such action is essential to maintaining global stability and human security, protecting US investments in global development, and creating economic opportunities for American businesses and workers.

In our current fiscal environment, supporting international climate programs makes sound economic sense. The World Bank estimates that for every dollar invested in disaster risk

management seven dollars in post-disaster costs can be saved. Further, there are significant job growth opportunities in reducing global emissions. According to a World Wildlife Fund study, the U.S. could create 280,000 to 850,000 new jobs if just 14% of clean energy technologies in developing countries came from the United States.

In preparation for the upcoming summit, we urge the Administration to build upon the accomplishments and strong leadership demonstrated last year in Cancun in establishing the Green Climate Fund and support the following:

- Operationalize a transparent and accountable Green Climate Fund that ensures the meaningful participation of women, affected communities and civil society, including on the Fund's board. The fund should also subject financing, including through the private sector, to environmental and social safeguards and make substantial contributions to sustainable, vibrant local economies in developing countries.
- Support innovative approaches to generate new and additional public finance to help developing countries confront the climate crisis, including mechanisms in the shipping and aviation sectors. Shipping and aviation mechanisms should be designed to generate climate finance, reduce emissions, and protect developing countries against undue burdens or costs.
- Reiterate the US commitment made in Copenhagen to reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

We look forward to working with you to advance equitable and effective solutions to the global climate crisis.

Sincerely,

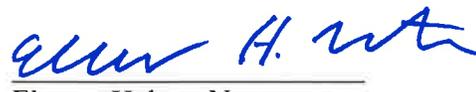

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress


Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

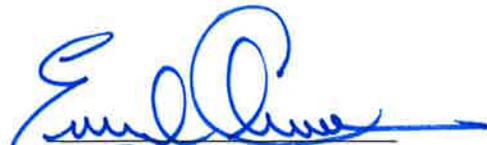

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

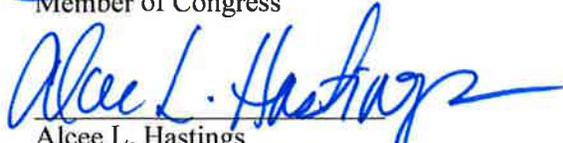

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

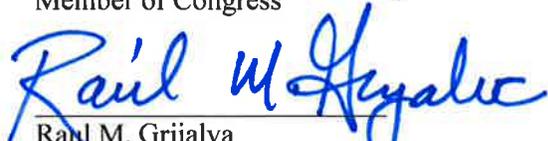

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

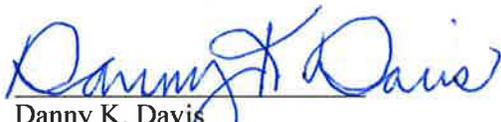

Donna M. Christensen
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

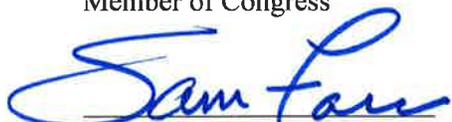

Alcee L. Hastings
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Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Bob Filner
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

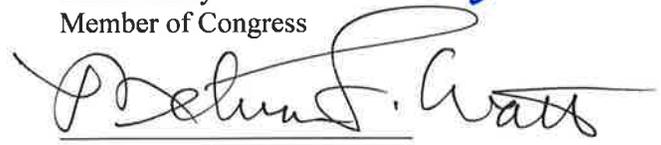

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

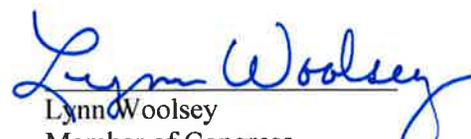

Pete Stark
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Earl Blumenauer
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Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

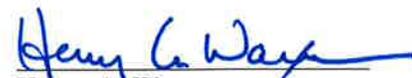

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Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress


James P. Moran
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Henry A. Waxman
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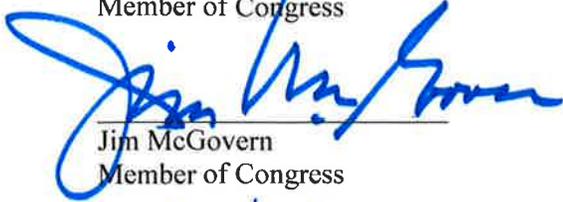

John Lewis
Member of Congress



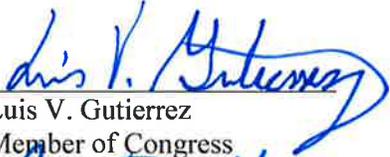
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



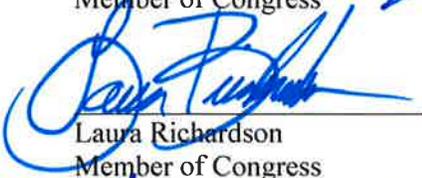
Lois Capps
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Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



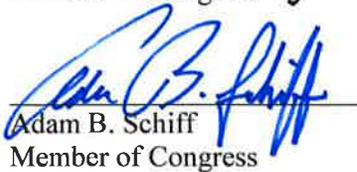
Laura Richardson
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Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



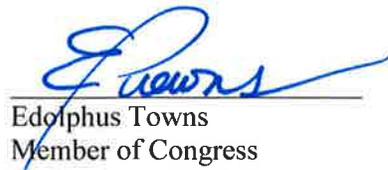
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



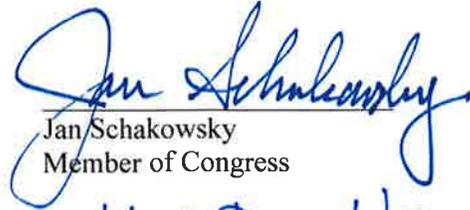
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



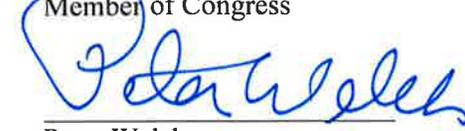
Edolphus Towns
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



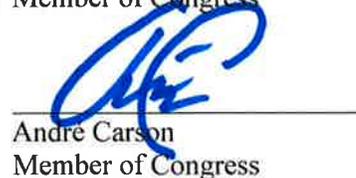
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Peter Welch
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Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



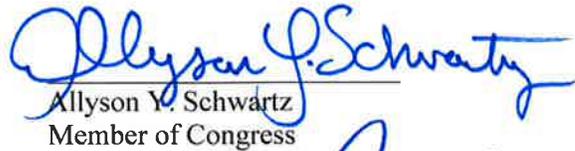
Andre Carson
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Maurice D. Hinchey
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Ted Deutch
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Allyson Y. Schwartz
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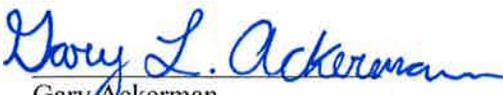
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Edward J. Markey
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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G.K. Butterfield
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Gary Ackerman
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Yvette D. Clarke
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