

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 2, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We appreciate the attention that your administration has paid to the ongoing conflicts in the two Sudans and write today, on the heels of the announcement of the departure of Ambassador Princeton Lyman, to urge you to maintain the position of Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan moving forward. This critical post demonstrates the high level of commitment of the people and government of the United States to resolving outstanding issues in and between Sudan and South Sudan, and provides an advocate for the people of both countries as they strive to develop democratic governance and end decades of war and humanitarian crisis.

Although we had hoped that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the independence of South Sudan would usher in a new era of peace and stability, recent events in both countries have demonstrated that there are still regional dangers and challenges to which the United States has a responsibility to respond. The conflict in Darfur has continued for more than a decade, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States is affecting nearly one million people through displacement, food insecurity, and conflict. Refugees continue to stream over the border into overcrowded and under-resourced camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia as a political solution to the conflict remains elusive.

Sudan and South Sudan are still engaged in critical economic, political, and security negotiations, as they try to restart South Sudanese oil flows, demarcate their international border, and settle the status of Abyei, whose people were denied their promised referendum. Meanwhile, the new Government of South Sudan is struggling with inter-tribal conflict, corruption, and an increasingly restrictive political environment, all in the context of a poor economic outlook following the shutdown of oil production and a still under-developed agricultural sector. The political and economic situation in Sudan also appears increasingly precarious.

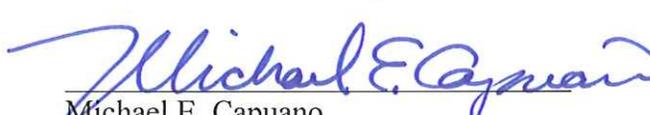
Despite these challenges, the potential for both countries remains great, and we must redouble our efforts in the region if we are to consolidate gains made through the CPA and resolve once and for all the long-standing obstacles to peace.

Throughout the past two presidential administrations, the United States has led international efforts to bring peace to the people of Sudan and South Sudan. The presence of a full-time U.S. Special Envoy reporting to the Secretary of State has been crucial in this endeavor. Ambassador Lyman has worked tirelessly to encourage the two Sudanese governments to implement the CPA, address the ongoing violence in Darfur, and open up access for humanitarian aid in the Nuba Mountains. While many of us are frustrated by Khartoum's intransigence and the slow

pace of negotiations, what progress we have seen would not have been possible without a strong U.S. commitment through a Special Envoy of the stature, seniority, and temperament to win the respect and trust of all parties.

Sudan and South Sudan are both in a time of transition, as the two nations aim to establish their own identities as sovereign nations. Violence and hunger remain a daily threat, and conflicts continue to destabilize the two countries and affect the wider the region. As you begin your second term, Mr. President, we thank for your ongoing commitment to the people of the two Sudan, and urge you to maintain the position of Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan to help achieve the aspirations for democracy, peace, and prosperity that people of both countries share.

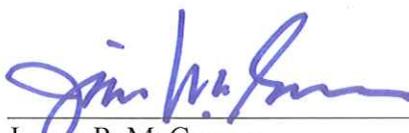
Sincerely,

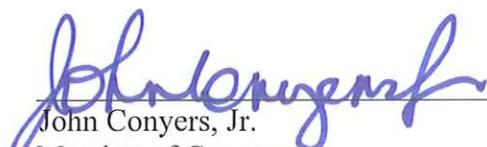
  
 Michael E. Capuano  
 Member of Congress

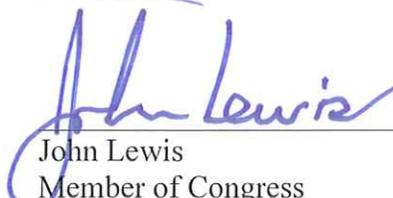
  
 Frank R. Wolf  
 Member of Congress

  
 Barbara Lee  
 Member of Congress

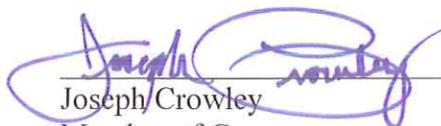
  
 Michael T. McCaul  
 Member of Congress

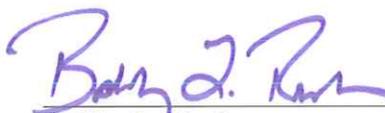
  
 James P. McGovern  
 Member of Congress

  
 John Conyers, Jr.  
 Member of Congress

  
 John Lewis  
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 Karen Bass  
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 Joseph Crowley  
 Member of Congress

  
 Bobby L. Rush  
 Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



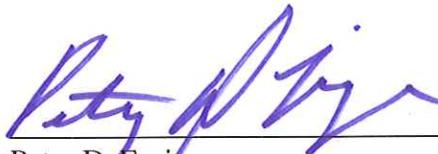
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



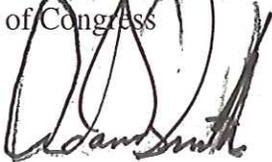
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
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Adam Smith  
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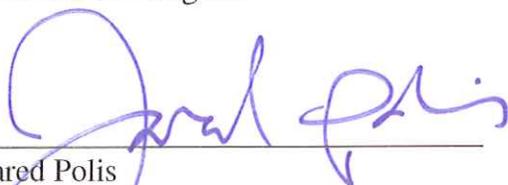
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



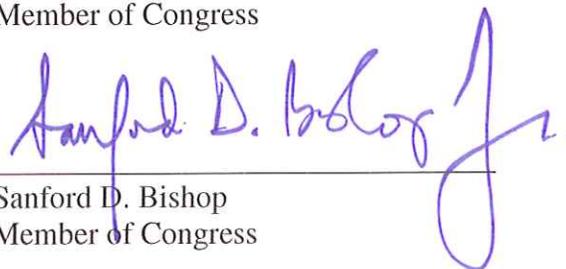
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



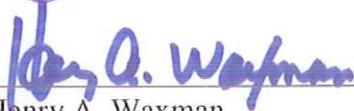
Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress



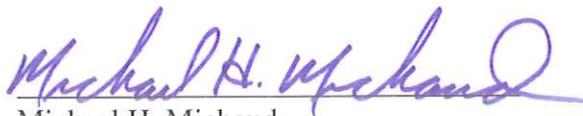
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



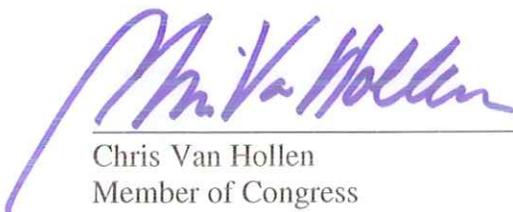
Sanford D. Bishop  
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Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud  
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Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

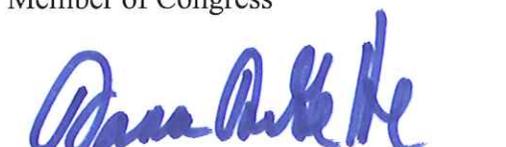
  
John R. Carter  
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John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress

  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

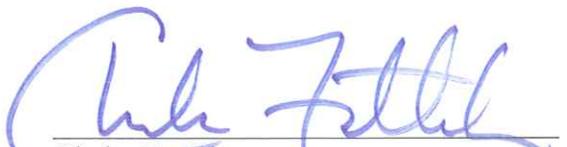
  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

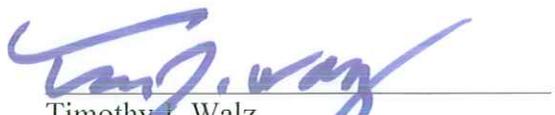
  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

  
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

  
Roscoe G. Bartlett  
Member of Congress

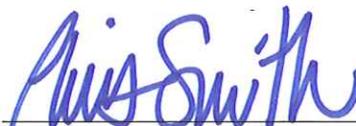
  
James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

  
Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State