

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

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

We would like to first congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Homeland Security. We also write to express our outrage over the continuing deportations of Haitians in the United States and urge you to immediately grant Haitian immigrants in the United States Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

This past summer, only months after deadly food riots, Haiti was hit by four back-to-back hurricanes and tropical storms. Thousands lost their homes, many were left starving and isolated from humanitarian assistance, nearly 800 lives were taken, and as of last month, over 300 people remain missing. Though recovery efforts have slowly commenced, much of Haiti remains in a state of destruction. Up to 40,000 people are in shelters, and severe malnutrition concerns have arisen throughout rural areas.

The Bush administration recognized these conditions and commendably chose to halt deportation flights to Haiti. However, this past December, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) unexpectedly chose to resume deportations. Even worse, deportations are still occurring at alarming rates and under disturbing conditions.

As you know, TPS may be granted when any of the following conditions are met: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or when extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning. Now, more than ever, Haiti continues to meet all of the requirements for TPS.

In December, your predecessor determined that Haiti did not meet the standards for TPS. Given the overwhelming challenges with which Haiti has been forced to contend over the past year, we urge you to reverse this decision and grant Haitians in the United States TPS, or at the very least, resume the halt on deportations pending further policy review.

As Haiti's humanitarian crisis becomes increasingly dire and the nation's struggle for economic stability and sustainable development is further delayed, it is only a matter of time before a humanitarian crisis becomes a political one threatening the stability of Haiti and our entire region. TPS is the least expensive, most immediate form of humanitarian assistance we

can provide, as it allows the Haitian government to invest all of its limited resources in the rebuilding and redevelopment of its struggling economy.

Just 600 miles from our shores, political and economic instability in Haiti impacts our own economy and immigration levels, thereby making it our responsibility to work to ensure Haiti's long-term stability. The people of Haiti have long suffered through natural destruction, persistent poverty, and repressive regimes. We have a moral obligation to help the people of Haiti sustain and rebuild their country by granting Haitian nationals already residing in the United States TPS.

In keeping with President Obama's promise to renew America's global leadership, we respectfully ask that you address this extremely critical issue immediately.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this and other matters of mutual concern.

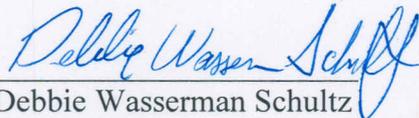
Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



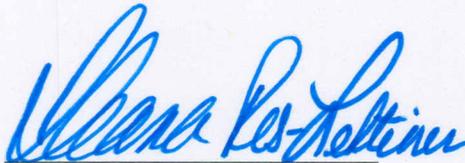
Kendrick B. Meek  
Member of Congress



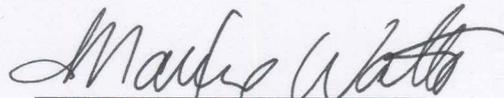
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



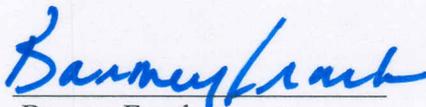
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



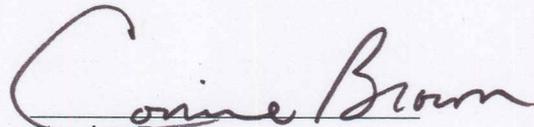
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



Corinne Brown  
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

Michael E. McMahon

Michael E. McMahon  
Member of Congress

Ed Towns

Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

Bill Delahunt

William D. Delahunt  
Member of Congress

Bob Filner

Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano

José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress