

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2013

The Honorable Charles Hagel
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3010

The Honorable Rajiv Shah
Administrator
United States Agency for
International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Secretary Hagel and Administrator Shah:

We are writing in support of assisting people in the hardest hit areas of the Philippines through airdrops of humanitarian supplies after Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.

As you know, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda struck the Philippines on November 8, 2013, creating unimaginable damage and devastation. Since this record storm made landfall, the United States and the international community have rushed to aid the people of the Philippines.

As of November 18, 2013, the United States Agency for International Development reported that Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda affected 10.3 million people, with four million being displaced. Today, many people remain in desperate need of basic goods such as food, water, and medical supplies.

We are proud of the swift efforts by the United States to assist our friends in the Philippines by coordinating the distribution of food, water, and humanitarian goods. Ideally our aid personnel on the ground would be available to directly distribute these goods to those in need. But, unfortunately, this is not a viable option due to extensive damage on the ground.

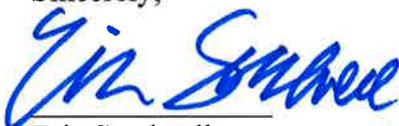
After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the U.S. Air Force dropped over 55,000 pounds of food and water to the areas that had been difficult to reach due to widespread damage. It is my understanding the United States is currently delivering food to the Philippines primarily through distribution centers and via helicopter and V22-Ospreys. Time is of the essence, and we hope you will use the U.S. Air Force to administer larger scale airdrops of humanitarian supplies to assist those in the most remote and inaccessible areas of the Philippines that were affected by the typhoon, to the fullest extent possible.

In particular, we wish to highlight an aid deployment strategy developed by the U.S. Air Force at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory called the Tri-wall Arial Delivery System, or TRIADS, which enables the dropping of food packages safely from high altitudes without

parachutes. This technology has been effectively utilized to deliver millions of food packages in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Haiti, and Pakistan. We believe that this approach could be particularly useful in distributing food in isolated areas in the Philippines without unintentionally injuring people on the ground.

Thank you for your leadership and continued efforts to assist the people of the Philippines as they begin to recover from this horrific disaster. We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding the use of airdrops of food and supplies to assist people in the most unreachable areas of the Philippines.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



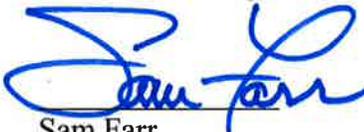
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



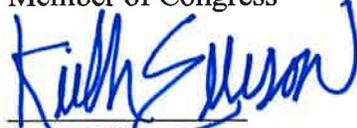
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



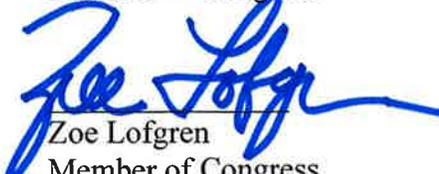
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



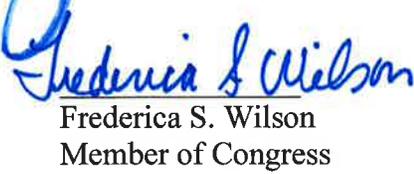
Dina Titus
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Janice Hahn
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Janice D. Schakowsky
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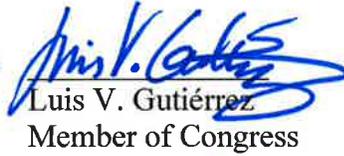

Steven A. Horsford
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Barbara Lee
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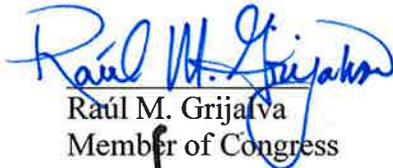

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Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

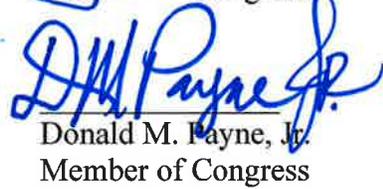

Bradley S. Schneider
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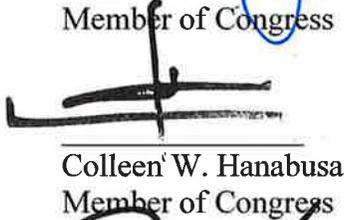

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

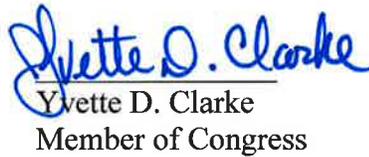

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

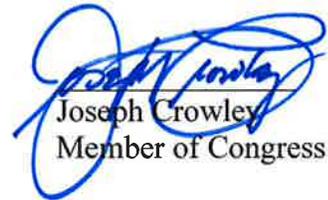

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

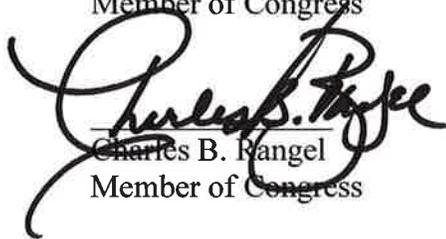

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

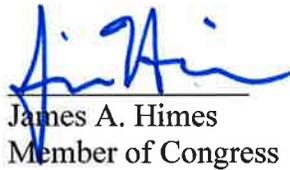

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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