

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

As the people of the Philippines continue to recover from Typhoon Haiyan, we write to urge you to designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to the Philippines. We are proud of the swift American military and civilian assistance to the relief, and recovery operations. However, nearly four months after Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, and three months since the Philippines submitted their official request for TPS, we urge you to grant this delayed designation.

In November 2013, the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms on record. The typhoon has killed over 6000 people, affected more than 16 million individuals, and caused an estimated \$895 million in damages. Recovery will take time. While Typhoon Haiyan alone was calamitous, the Philippines also experienced additional natural disasters such as Typhoon Bopha in December of 2012 and the Bohol earthquake in October 2013. Combined, these disasters have compounding effects and in total, have directly affected over 23 million people and displaced as many as 8 million.

Given the damage and ravaged communities, the Philippines meets the necessary requirements for TPS. To date, the resources to rebuild are stretched. Granting TPS would allow the Philippines government to focus on providing timely aid to the survivors currently in the Philippines. Moreover, given the unhealthy circumstances and destroyed homes in the affected areas, many Filipinos are unable to return to safe living conditions.

In the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, a letter was sent in November 2013 to then-Acting Secretary Beers asking him to designate the country for TPS. We would like to express our continued support on this matter. As TPS has been designated in the wake of similar natural disasters that have impacted countries like El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua, we now urge your prompt attention to consider designating the Philippines for TPS. We appreciate your urgent consideration and look forward to receiving a timely response to our request.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress



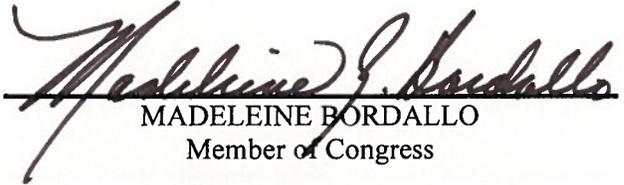
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



JOE HECK
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



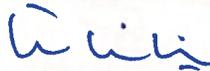
MADELEINE BORDALLO
Member of Congress



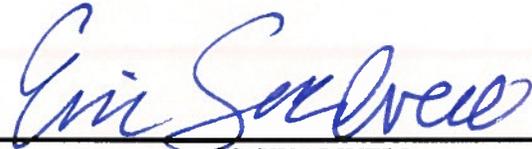
ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress



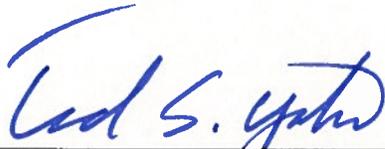
ROBERT C. SCOTT
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ALAN LOWENTHAL
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RAÚL GRIJALVA
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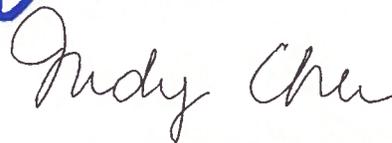
COLLEEN HANABUSA
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JANICE SCHAKOWSKY
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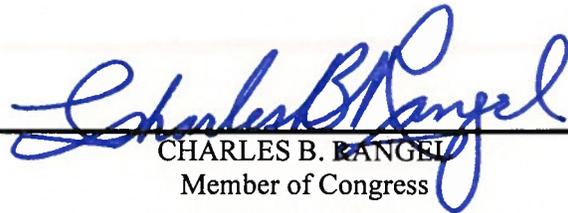
BARBARA LEE
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GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
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CHARLES B. RANGEL
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GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



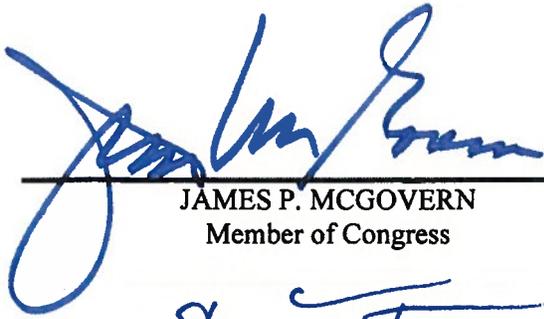
ADAM SMITH
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ENI FLAEOVAEGA
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



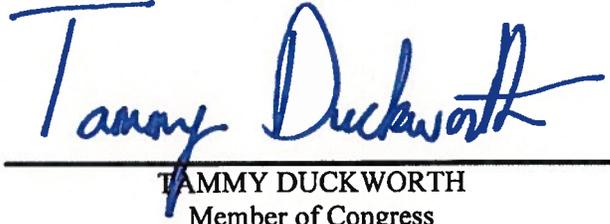
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
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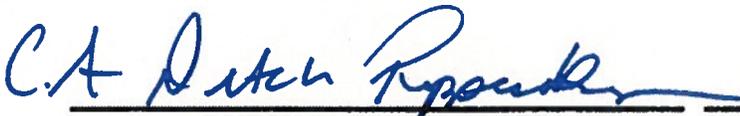
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