

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
The Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton and Secretary Napolitano:

As you know, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis was in Washington recently to discuss strengthening of US-Greek relations and Greece's OSCE Chairmanship. As a North Atlantic Treaty Organization partner, Greece has been a long-standing strategic partner standing shoulder to shoulder with the US in our fight against international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As one of our most trusted allies, Greece has also joined with the United States in fostering democratic reforms globally as well as bringing peace and stability to the Balkans, the Middle East, Central Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean.

During her meeting with members of Congress, Minister Bakoyannis discussed Greece's pending application for membership in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). We strongly support Athens' inclusion in the program.

Please know that we fully endorse our ally Greece's participation in the Visa Waiver Program and we urge you to ensure that their application is resolved as expeditiously as possible. Greece has met the formal requirements for joining the program, and we urge you to use every tool at your disposal to advance negotiations and make certain Greece's VWP application and eventual participation is a top priority for the Obama Administration.

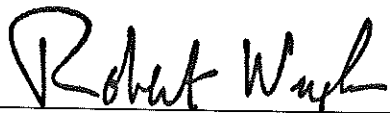
During the past two years, Congress has worked closely with the Departments of State and Homeland Security to pass legislation which strengthened the security measures of the Visa Waiver Program and simultaneously enabled expansion of visa-free travel to additional countries. We congratulate your agencies on successfully expanding the program to the eight additional countries that were found to be qualified, and urge you to ensure the timely addition of our ally Greece to this program. We believe Greece's participation in this program would further strengthen America's security as well as enhance our economic, cultural and political partnership with Greece.

Secretaries Clinton and Napolitano, as proponents of VWP expansion to qualified countries and Greece's participation in the program, we look forward to hearing from you regarding the status of Greece's application as well as an overview of the steps taken by the State Department and Department of Homeland Security in coordination with the Greek government to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Visa Waiver

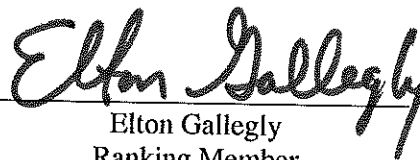
Program. It is extremely important, given the strong bilateral relations between the United States and Greece, for there to be an expeditious and satisfactory resolution to this issue, with Greece joining the VWP.

To that end, please know we look forward to working with you to further enhance the Visa Waiver Program's security provisions and further expansion to qualified countries in the 111th Congress.

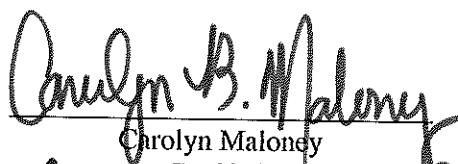
Sincerely,



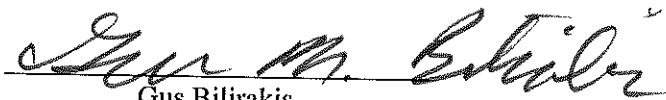
Robert Wexler
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Europe



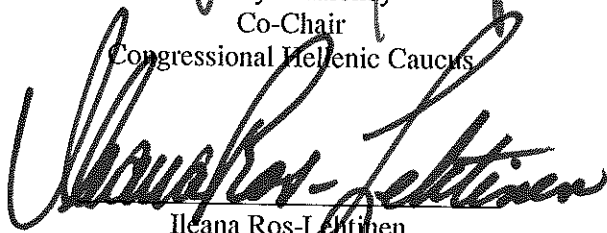
Elton Gallegly
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Europe



Carolyn Maloney
Co-Chair
Congressional Hellenic Caucus



Gus Bilirakis
Co-Chair
Congressional Hellenic Caucus



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



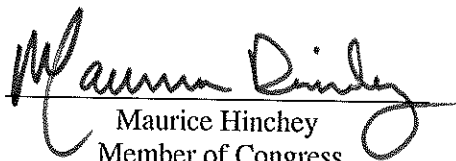
Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



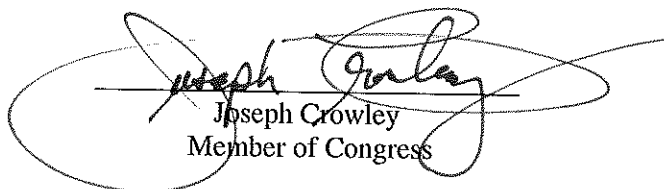
Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



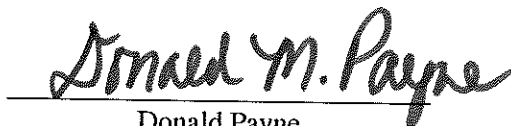
Jesse L. Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



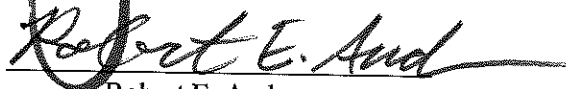
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



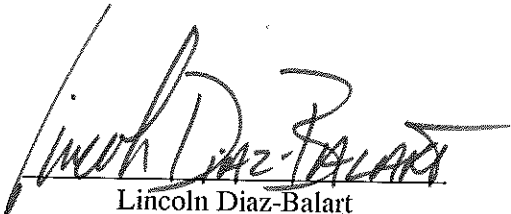
Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress

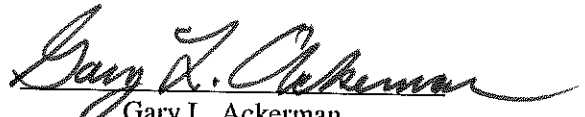


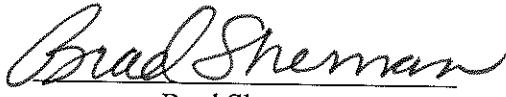
Donald Payne
Member of Congress

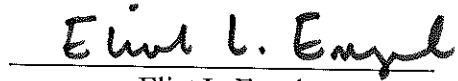



Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

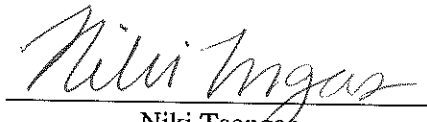

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

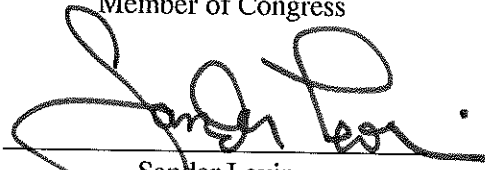

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

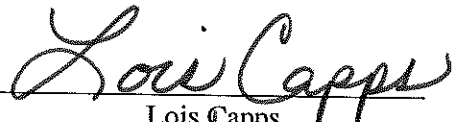

Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

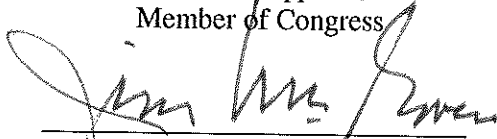

Michael E. Caputo
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress

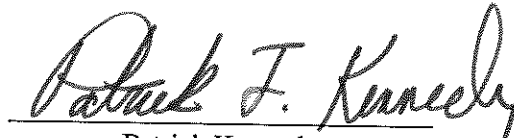

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

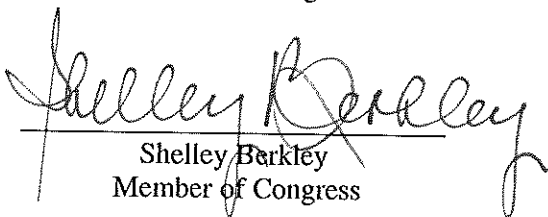

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

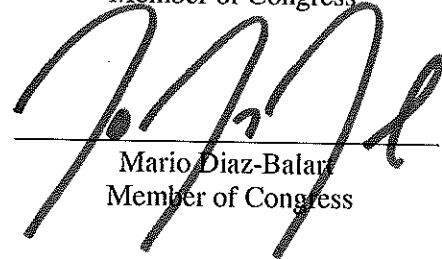

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


John Carter
Member of Congress


Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress


Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



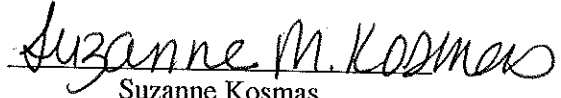
Michael McMahon
Member of Congress



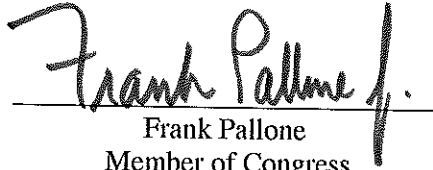
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Zack Space
Member of Congress




Suzanne Kosmas
Member of Congress



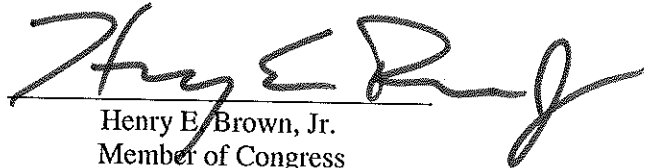
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



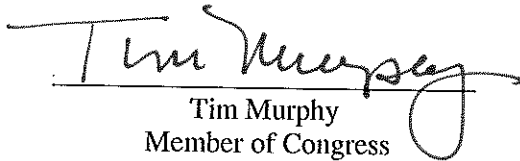
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



James Langevin
Member of Congress



Henry E. Brown, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Cc: Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis
Ambassador Alexandros Mallias
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard