

December 5, 2016

The Honorable Donald Trump
President-Elect of the United States
Transition Team Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

Dear President-Elect Trump,

Congratulations on your election victory. As you and the Transition Team begin developing policy priorities for the next Administration, members of the bipartisan Cuba Working Group (CWG) strongly urge you to support the restoration of U.S. commercial engagement with Cuba. The CWG was founded on the belief that increasing trade, travel and investment in Cuba will not only open new markets and create jobs in both countries, but also promote human rights and better hemispheric relations as well as improve the security posture of the United States.

Americans support the easing of commercial restrictions in Cuba because it will result in increased jobs, economic growth and productivity gains for the United States economy. In fact, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) released a report¹ earlier this year that found if U.S. restrictions on Cuba were lifted, U.S. exports of selected agricultural and manufactured goods could increase to a total of roughly \$2.2 billion, up from a mere \$180 million in 2015. Policies that improve commercial relations could potentially create thousands of jobs here in the United States and open valuable new markets for our exports. The restrictions the U.S. government imposes on American business activity in Cuba have not only stymied America's economic potential, they have provided the repressive Cuban regime with an excuse on which to place blame for their own economic woes. Additionally, there is little credible evidence that sanctions have improved the human rights situation in Cuba, a top priority of the CWG.

The recent death of Fidel Castro represents a dawn of a new era in Cuban leadership and America must use this opportunity to help chart a new course for Cuba's future. We believe America's greatest ambassadors - the American people and the U.S. private sector - will always be the most effective conduit for the spread of American influence. Continued engagement by our citizens and businesses will help to empower the Cuban people, facilitate economic reforms, and promote the expansion of civil and religious liberties.

Finally, improving our relationship with Cuba would also align the U.S. government with the will of the American people and improve our standing with our regional allies. Recent polling from the Pew Research Center show that 73 percent of voters supported renewed diplomatic relations and 72 percent support ending the embargo.² In addition, a recent poll out of Florida International University showed that 63 percent of Cuban-Americans³ in Miami want to see the embargo lifted. Global support for the

¹ USITC *Overview of Cuban Imports of Goods and Services and Effects of U.S. Restrictions*, March 2016.

<https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub4597.pdf>

² "Majorities Across Demographic Groups Favor Renewed Ties With Cuba" Pew Research Center, July 21, 2015.

http://www.people-press.org/2015/07/21/growing-public-support-for-u-s-ties-with-cuba-and-an-end-to-the-trade-embargo/7-21-2015_03/

³ "Majority of Cuban-Americans in Miami oppose U.S. embargo" FIU News, September 14, 2016.

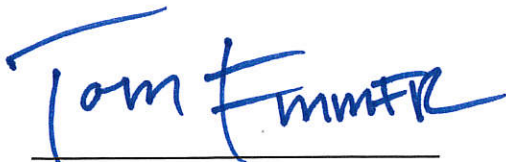
<https://news.fiu.edu/2016/09/majority-of-cuban-americans-in-miami-oppose-u-s-embargo/103975>

normalization of our relations also remains overwhelming, particularly among some of our most important economic and security partners in Latin America.

We urge you to support the continued expansion of U.S. commercial interests in Cuba and allow our private sector to help shape a post-Fidel Cuba. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you on policies that empower the Cuban people and create greater opportunity for Americans.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, MD
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



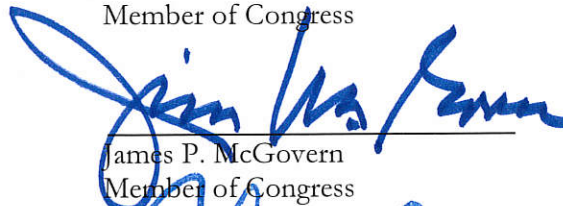
Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
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Barbara Lee
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James P. McGovern
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Cheri Bustos
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Sam Farr
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