

May 5, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to request that your Administration make emergency relief for Haiti a high priority. The most important and direct way to do this would be by dedicating no less than \$60 million for Haiti when allocating the remaining fiscal year 2008 funding from the Title II Food for Peace Program and the resources made available by the recent drawdown of funds from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, an action announced by the Secretary of Agriculture on April 14, 2008. These funds will provide President Préval the necessary resources to carry out his anti-hunger program for the next six months.

Additionally, we respectfully request that Secretary Rice take a humanitarian trip to Haiti in the near future. This trip would serve to further demonstrate to the international community that we view our current commitment to Haiti as more than an obligation, but rather as an affirmation of our duty to the friends and allies of the United States.

As you know, Haiti sits only 600 miles from our shores. It has been wracked by political turmoil throughout its history and is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. In early 2007, U.N. peacekeepers restored stability to the country by driving most gang activity out of Port-au-Prince's notorious slums, and the Haitian government began to forge ahead with a comprehensive plan for economic growth.

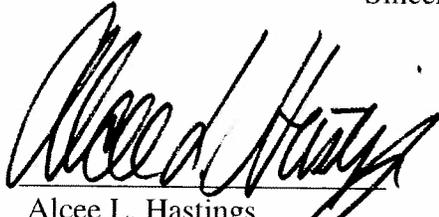
Today, Haiti is facing another crisis that threatens to derail this progress. Earlier this month, riots protesting high food prices broke out in the southern city of Les Cayes and quickly spread throughout the country. The rising cost of food has placed additional hardship on Haiti's people, three-quarters of whom live on less than \$2 a day. Additionally, 1 in 5 children is chronically malnourished and a recent *New York Times* story reported that one booming business is the selling of patties made of mud, oil and sugar typically eaten by the most destitute.

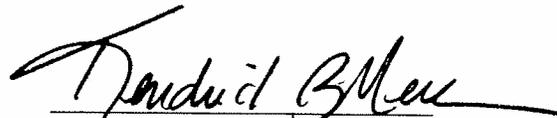
To respond to this crisis, President Préval announced new measures that would reduce the price of a 50-Kilogram bag of rice from \$51 to \$43, or by 16%. In a country in Haiti's current condition, this reduction could mean the difference between eating and going hungry for many destitute families.

The United States must now demonstrate leadership to resolve and help one of its closest neighbors. It is not in the United States' interest for Haiti to descend into turmoil. We strongly urge you to immediately provide these necessary funds and send Secretary Rice to Haiti to emphasize our commitment to our neighbor and ally.

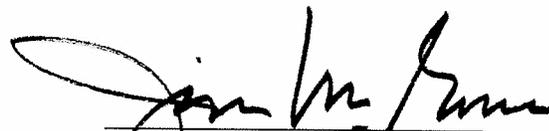
We commend your continued desire to help those suffering from humanitarian crisis around the world. We urge you now to come to the aid of the Haitian people who are suffering in our own backyard at this crucial time.

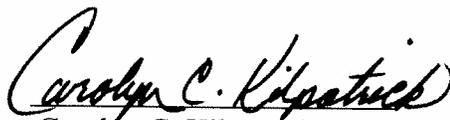
Sincerely,


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

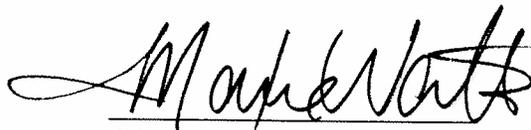

Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

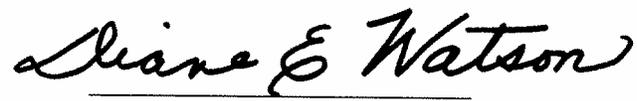

Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

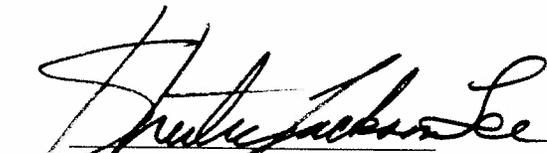

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress

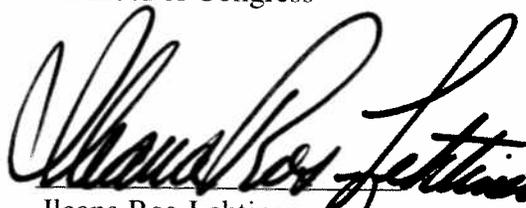

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

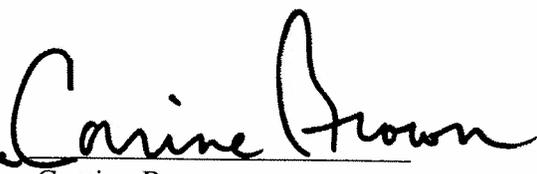

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Diane Watson
Member of Congress

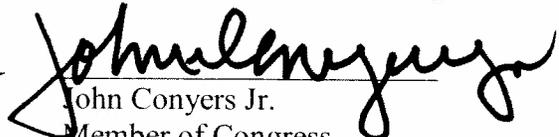

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

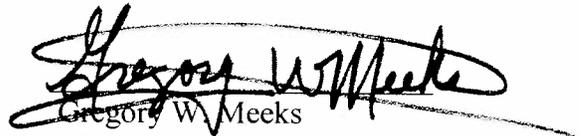

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

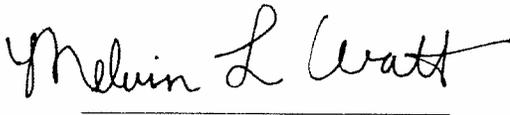

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

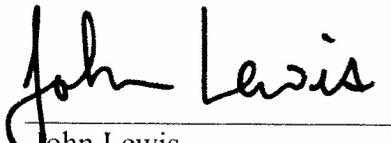

John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

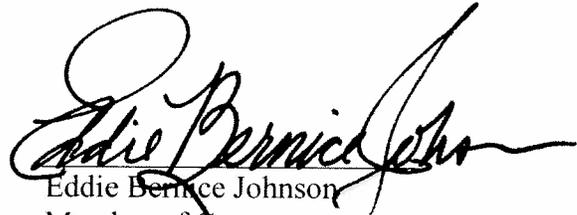

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

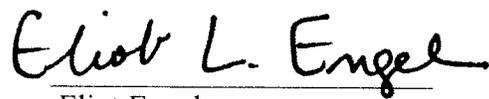

Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress

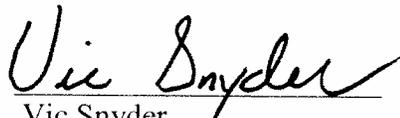

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

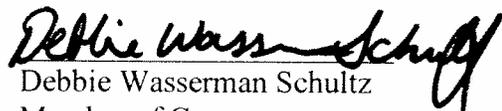

John Lewis
Member of Congress

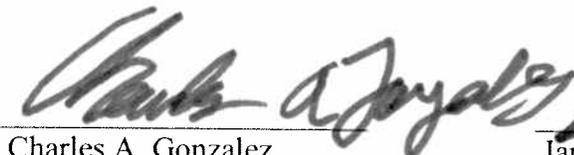

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

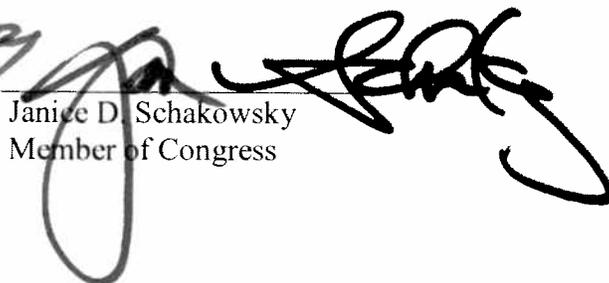

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

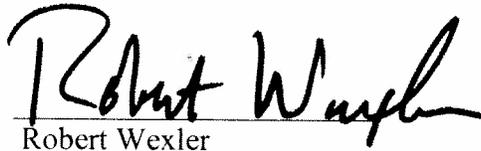

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress


Vic Snyder
Member of Congress

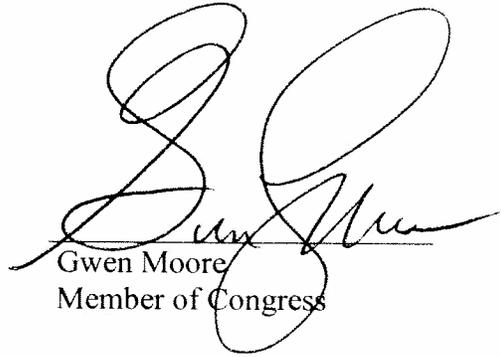

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

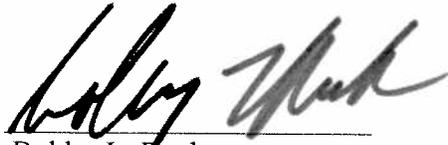

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



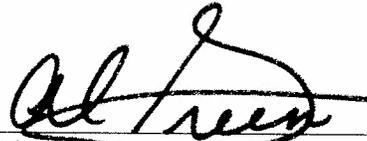
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



William Jefferson
Member of Congress



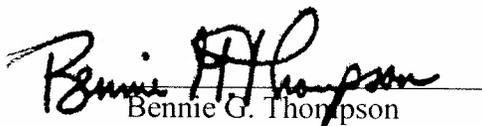
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



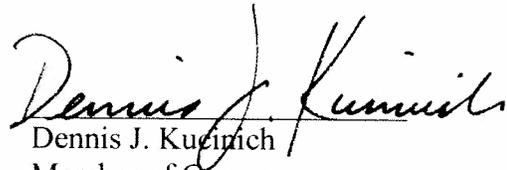
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
Member of Congress



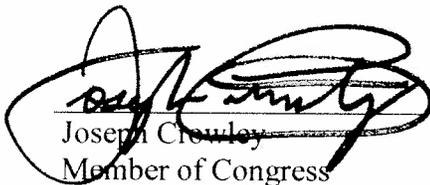
Tim Mahoney
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



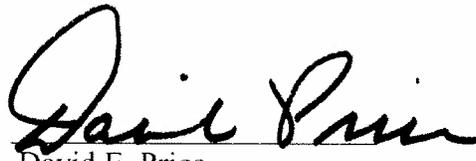
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



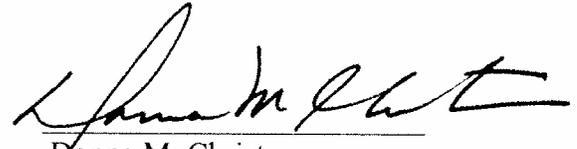
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



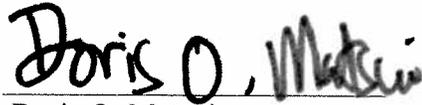
David E. Price
Member of Congress



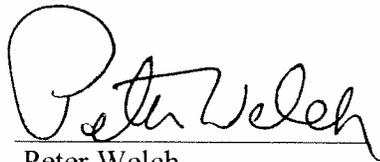
Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



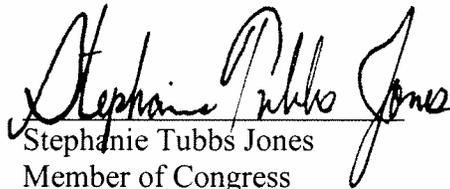
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress



Ron Klein
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress