September 11, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke,

We write to strongly urge you to renew the Temporary Protected Status designation for Honduras and El Salvador.

Failing to renew TPS would needlessly tear apart families and communities across the country. There are currently approximately 200,000 Salvadorans who hold TPS and the approximately 61,000 Hondurans. TPS holders from Honduras and El Salvador have become valued and important members of our communities. They have started families, opened businesses, and contributed to this country in countless ways. They are part of the fabric of America.

Honduras and El Salvador remain unprepared to receive these individuals. As the most recent TPS extension notes, there is a “substantial, but temporary, disruption of living conditions” in both countries, resulting from Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and a series of earthquakes in El Salvador. Unfortunately, conditions have not sufficiently improved since the most recent extension. Additionally, El Salvador and Honduras are ranked as among the most violent countries in the world, and job opportunities are scarce. These factors complicate the ability of Honduras and El Salvador to fully recover from the natural disasters that resulted in their original designation.

The potential return of hundreds of thousands of former TPS holders to Honduras and El Salvador would likely bring destabilizing consequences throughout the region. At the Conference for Prosperity and Security in Central America, you stated that the “U.S. Homeland Security mission is affected directly by what goes on in Central America.” We agree, and we are deeply concerned that failing to renew TPS status for Honduras and El Salvador would undermine U.S. efforts to advance prosperity and security in Central America.

TPS designations have been made and extended under administrations of both political parties since its creation by statute in 1990; extension of these TPS designations is not only fully within your authority but completely appropriate given the country conditions. We strongly urge you to renew TPS, in order to preserve the integrity of American families and communities, and to steady the path of progress being made toward stability in the region.
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gómez  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Vil M

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

Bebo O'Rourke

Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

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Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey  
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Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress
Bradley S. Schneider  
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Keith Ellison  
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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
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Ruben J. Kihuen  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

Diana Degette  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson, Jr.  
Member of Congress