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**Congress of the United States**  
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AND OVERHEAD ARCHITECTURE

May 31, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I strongly support your vital diplomatic travels across the globe addressing America's pressing national interests, but I also wanted to call your attention to a situation that requires your immediate personal attention much closer to home; not in Africa or Asia or Europe, but right here in the Americas.

On April 16, 2016, a devastating earthquake struck Ecuador and numerous aftershocks have occurred since then. The damage was significant and recovery will take years. Shortly after the quake hit, Ecuadorians in my District and across the U.S. began advocating for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and I strongly support them in this request.

I have spoken directly with Secretary Jeh Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), who told me certain steps must take place before he can even consider that designation: Ecuador must request TPS (which they have already done) and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the State Department each have to recommend action to the DHS Secretary.

I have spoken with the Deputy and Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and understand that the State Department is actively communicating with the U.S. Embassy in Quito (Ecuador). I am grateful that our Ambassador to Ecuador has begun the assessment. I am appealing to you to make sure all necessary steps to prepare and transmit a recommendation to Secretary Johnson are completed as soon as possible. I respectfully request all of the support you can give so that Ecuadorian nationals will be granted TPS to temporarily remain in the U.S. in safety.

This will delay deportations back to Ecuador until the country is better able to accommodate returnees, while getting Ecuadorian immigrants in the U.S. onto more stable footing so that their remittances can help rebuild the country. TPS was created by the U.S. Congress to be granted in

just these sorts of devastating natural disasters, but each part of the U.S. Government must do its part to effectuate the protection that TPS affords.

I hope you will not delay in getting the necessary recommendation to the Secretary of Homeland Security just as quickly as is humanely possible. The situation in Ecuador is grave and the urgency for action is great.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis V. Gutiérrez". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security