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January 24, 2014

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1304**

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The Honorable Eric Cantor  
House Majority Leader  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation

Dear Leader Cantor:

I understand you will be leading a delegation of Members to Auschwitz next week for International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In advance of your trip, I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that impacts the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation (ABF) in Poland. This foundation is tasked with preserving and maintaining the historic site of one of the most notorious death camps of the Holocaust.

I led the bipartisan House effort in 2009, calling on the U.S. to contribute to the conservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp and facilities. Forty-five signatures were collected on a letter urging President Obama and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to support the international effort. In 2010, then Secretary Clinton pledged \$15 million from the U.S. State Department to the ABF to preserve the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. So far the ABF received pledges from 28 countries.

Regretfully, none of the dollars pledged for the preservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau site have reached the foundation, making the United States the only country not to have made good on any part of its pledge to support the fund. Congress appropriated the necessary funds, but failed to include language authorizing the transfer to the ABF.

I understand there was an effort to include the authorizing language in the 2014 appropriations bill, but unfortunately the final bill did not include the necessary language. I am asking for your support and assistance to include the authorizing language for the ABF in the 2015 appropriations bill or some other legislative vehicle to ensure the timely delivery of the pledged funds.

As we pass another anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, I believe that fulfilling the United States commitment to contribute to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation is an important way that we can honor the countless lives lost in the Holocaust and prevent future atrocities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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

Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress