

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

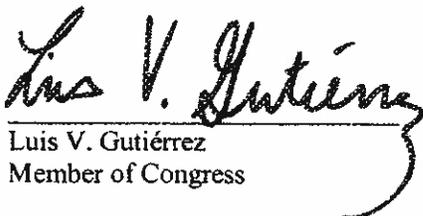
It was recently brought to our attention that the United States has yet to commit any funds to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. The purpose of this Foundation is to accumulate €120 million/\$160 million for the conservation of the grounds, buildings, and artifacts of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camp. To ensure that the atrocities of the Holocaust never occur again, we must commit to the preservation of its memory and its history.

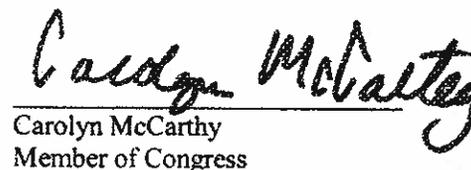
As we saw in the tragic shooting at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10th, 2009, violent ideologies of anti-Semitism and racism still run rampant in our nation and our world. The only way we can work toward the eradication of these painful and dangerous mentalities is to preserve, remember and teach others about the atrocities of the past. I ask that your Administration commit to this effort by at least promising to match the highest contribution pledged to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation as soon as possible so that we may set the standard for other nations and organizations to follow.

Too many turned a blind eye to the Nazi's genocide during this dark period in our history. An international symbol of the profound horrors that were committed, Auschwitz-Birkenau was the site of more than 1.1 million murders through systematic starvation, forced labor, individual execution and gas chambers. The United States must be a leader in the fight against hatred and bigotry by safeguarding an honest record of our history, so that future generations may learn from it. We simply cannot afford to neglect the preservation of this rapidly degrading site.

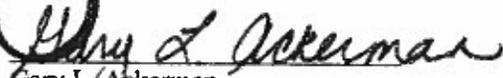
On June 5, 2009 you spoke at the Buchenwald concentration camp, noting that "It is up to us to bear witness; to ensure that the world continues to note what happened here; to remember all those who survived and all those who perished, and to remember them not just as victims, but also as individuals who hoped and loved and dreamed just like us." Your words inspire hope, and we look forward to seeing them realized through this important initiative. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

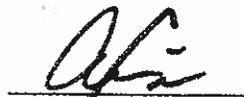
Sincerely,

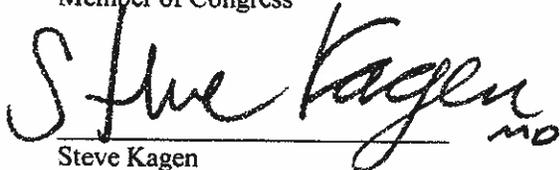

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress


Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

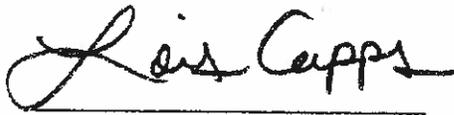

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

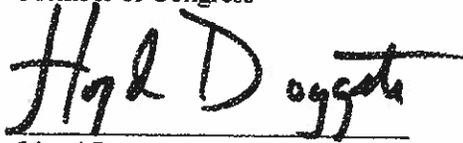

André Carson
Member of Congress

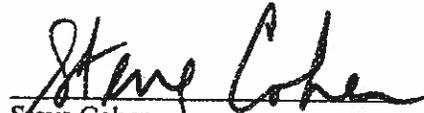

Steve Kagen
Member of Congress

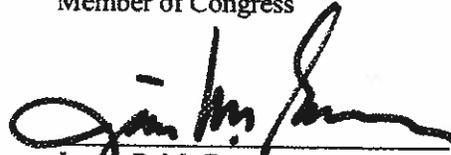

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress

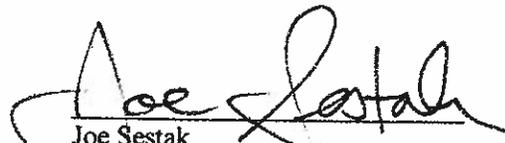

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

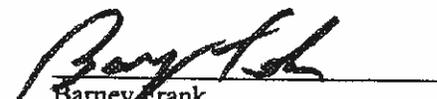

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

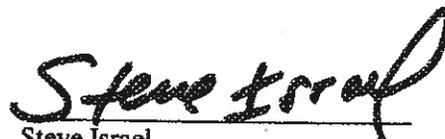

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

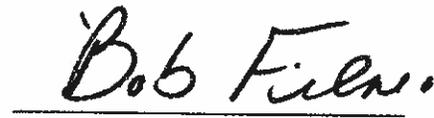

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

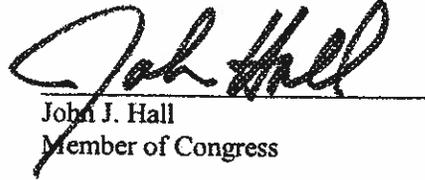

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

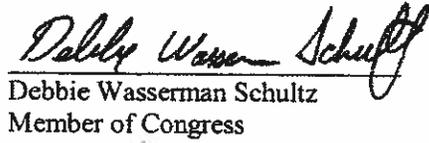

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

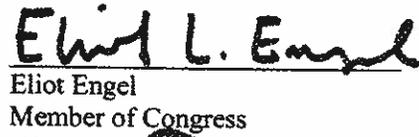

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

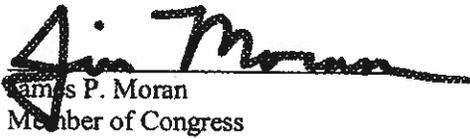

Ron Klein
Member of Congress

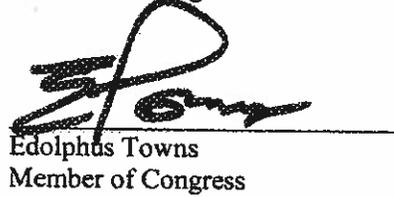

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

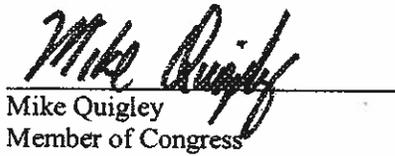

John J. Hall
Member of Congress

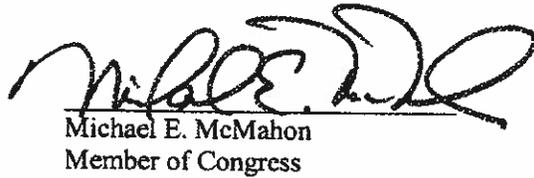

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

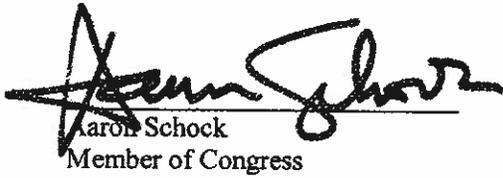

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

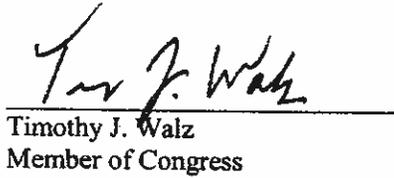

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

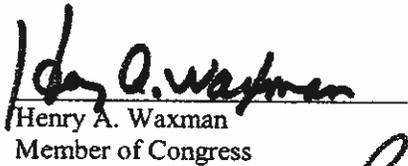

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

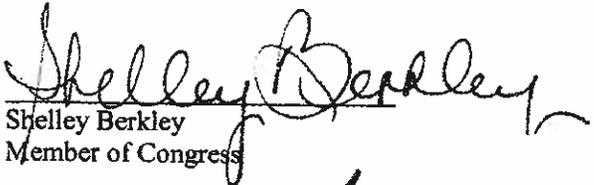

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

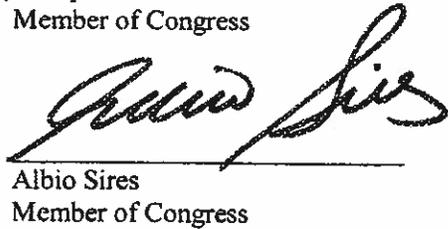

Michael E. McMahon
Member of Congress

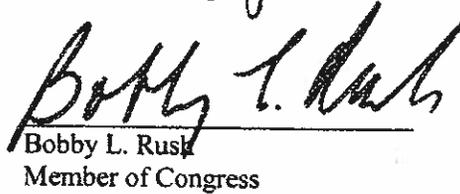

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress


Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

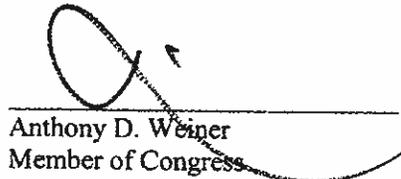

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress


Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress

Mary Jo Kilroy

Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Steven R. Rothman

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Kathleen A. Dahlkemper

Kathleen A. Dahlkemper
Member of Congress

Rush Holt

Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

Howard L. Berman

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress