

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2009

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
The U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Clinton:

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.

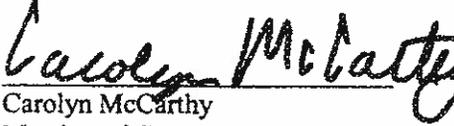
As we saw in the tragic shooting at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10th, 2009, violent ideologies of anti-Semitism and racism still run rampant in our nation and our world. The only way we can work toward the eradication of these painful and dangerous mentalities is to preserve, remember and teach others about the atrocities of the past. We 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.

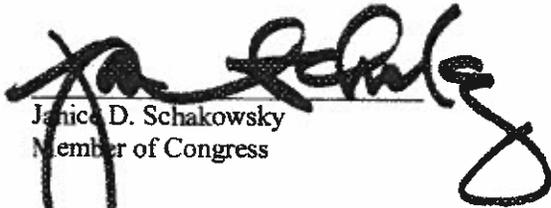
Too many turned a blind eye to the Nazi's genocide during this dark period in our history. An international symbol of the profound horrors that were committed, Auschwitz-Birkenau was the site of more than 1.1 million murders through systematic starvation, forced labor, individual execution and gas chambers. 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 President Obama 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." His words inspire hope, and we look forward to seeing them realized through this important initiative. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

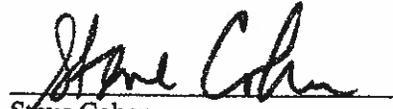
Sincerely,


Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

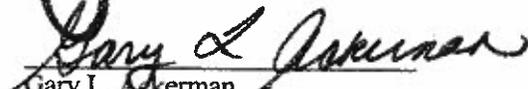

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



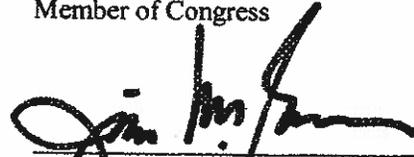
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



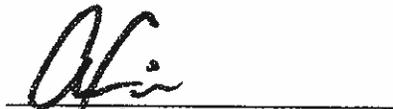
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



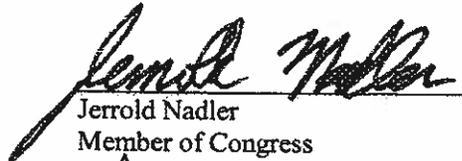
Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



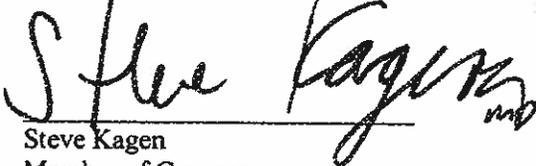
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



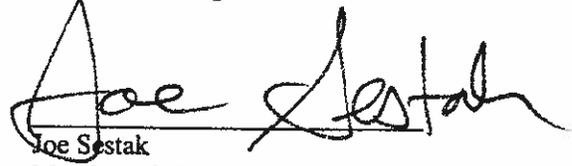
André Carson
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



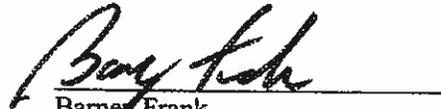
Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



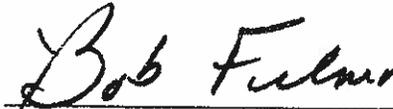
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



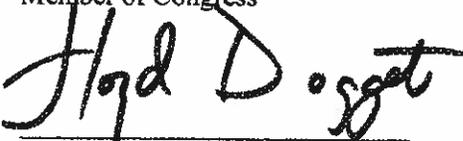
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress

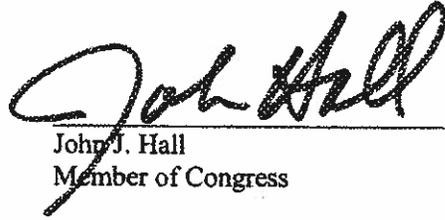


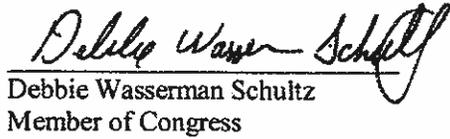
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

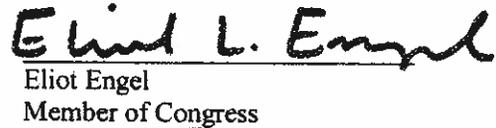


Ron Klein
Member of Congress

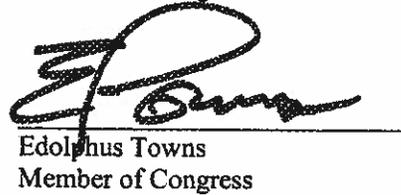

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

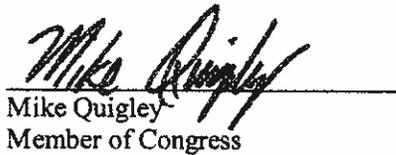

John J. Hall
Member of Congress

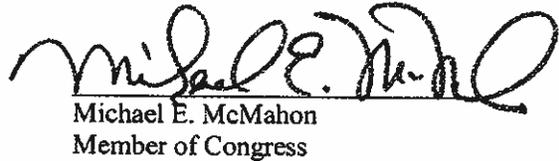

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

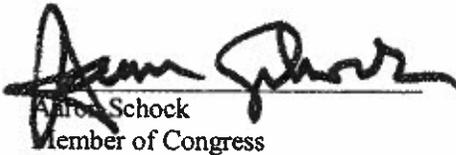

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

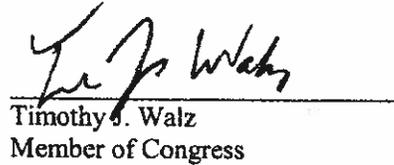

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

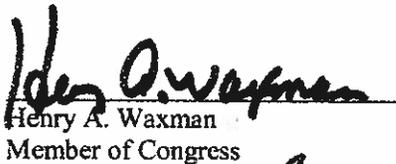

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

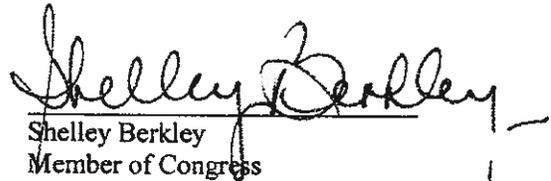

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

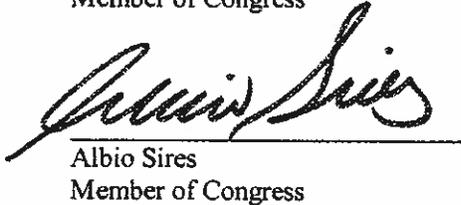

Michael E. McMahon
Member of Congress

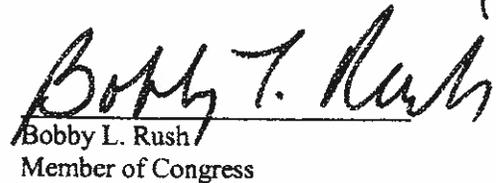

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress


Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

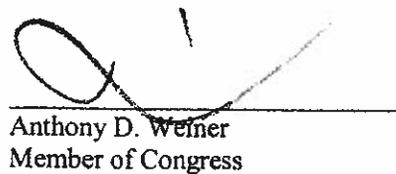

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress


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

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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