

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

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AND OVERHEAD ARCHITECTURE

August 30, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to you again regarding the matter of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for our neighbor, Ecuador. As you know, Ecuador suffered severe damage after an earthquake struck in April of this year. I continue to hear from Ecuadorians in my District and throughout the country about the need for TPS in order to support the recovery efforts on the ground. I have been a steadfast advocate for TPS for Ecuador, encouraging swift action and a TPS designation to the different parts of the U.S. Government that must collaborate on this policy, including the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

I am aware that the State Department's evaluation regarding whether TPS should be extended to Ecuador has already been transmitted. My constituents and I would greatly appreciate knowing what exactly the State Department recommended to DHS on this matter. In the interests of transparency, especially for the numerous Ecuadorian nationals living in the U.S. and those U.S. citizens with strong ties to Ecuador, I urge you to make public the recommendation that was made by State to DHS regarding TPS.

Very respectfully, I think citizens of Ecuador and citizens of the United States deserve to know how the U.S. government is deliberating – or failing to deliberate – a TPS designation. I reiterate my request for your support so that Ecuadorians living in the U.S. will be granted TPS to remain in the U.S. temporarily and in safety. TPS was created for exactly these types of urgent circumstances and too much time has passed already.

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 fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

CC: President Barack Obama  
The Honorable Jeh Johnson, U.S. Department of Homeland Security