

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2007

Secretary Rice
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Madame Secretary:

We write with serious concern over the continuing illegal transfer of arms to the Hezbollah terrorist organization across the Syrian-Lebanese border.

As you know, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright designated Hezbollah an official Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) under U.S. law (8 U.S.C. 1101) in October 1997. According to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Hezbollah murdered 241 U.S. servicemen in 1983 at the Marine barracks in Beirut. Hezbollah also claimed responsibility for the murder of 17 Americans at the U.S. embassy in Beirut under the pseudonym, "Islamic Jihad." Most recently, you recertified Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization on October 11, 2005.

During the August 2006 conflict in Lebanon, Hezbollah demonstrated new and dangerous military capabilities. For the first time, we saw the use of the Iranian C-802 anti-ship guided missile and the capability to rapidly deliver large clusters of Katyusha rockets and Fajr-3 missiles. A fully re-armed Hezbollah poses a clear and present danger to U.S. forces in the Mediterranean, to the safety and security of our democratic allies and to the continued existence of a democratic government in Lebanon.

On April 17, 2007, the President of the U.N. Security Council declared: "The Security Council, in this context, expresses its serious concern at mounting information by Israel and another State of illegal movements of arms across the Lebanese-Syrian border in violation of resolution 1701."

We ask you to work within the Council to give the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) the mandate it needs to stop the illegal movements of arms across the Syrian border. Under UN Security Council Resolution 1701, UNIFIL cannot engage Hezbollah forces transferring arms across the Syrian border without a specific request from the Lebanese Armed Forces. To date, no such requests have been made.

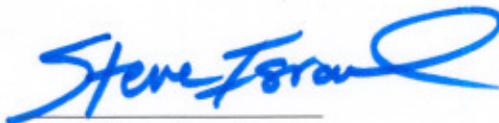
We note that you requested nearly \$168 million in the FY08 budget for the U.S. contribution to UNIFIL. This is in addition to the \$184 million contained in the FY07 supplemental request. For more than \$350 million in U.S. taxpayer assistance, we expect to see a United Nations force with a mandate and funding to stop the re-arming of Hezbollah—not an expensive observer force that stands by and watches the outbreak of a second war.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter. We hope you can find agreement within the Security Council expeditiously to give UNIFIL the mandate it needs to stop the re-arming of a foreign terrorist organization responsible for the deaths of more than 258 Americans.

Respectfully,



Mark Steven Kirk
Member of Congress



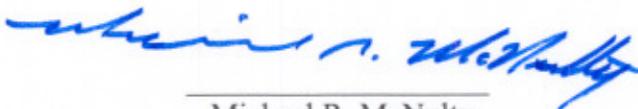
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



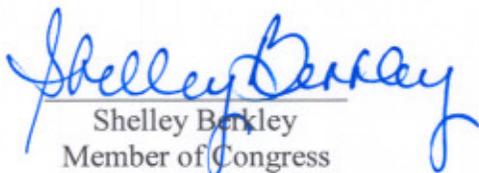
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



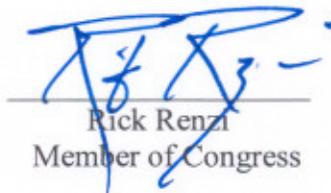
Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Rick Renzi
Member of Congress



Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress



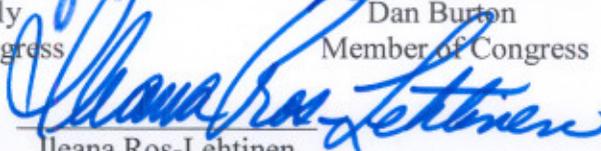
Ron Klein
Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress



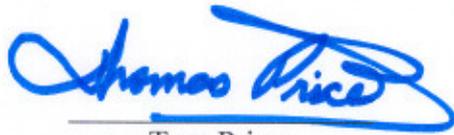
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



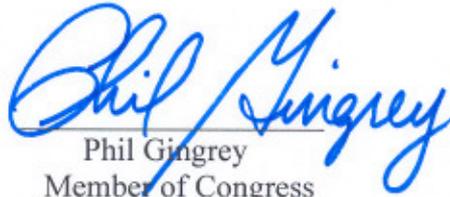
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Tom Price
Member of Congress



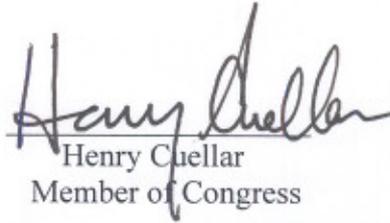
Melissa Bean
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



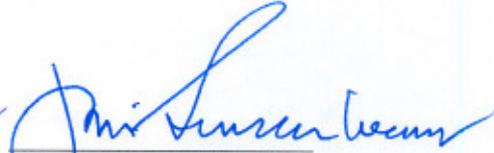
Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



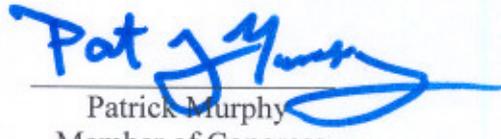
Michelle Bachmann
Member of Congress



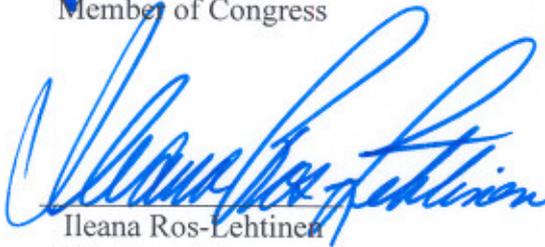
James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress



Jim Ramstad
Member of Congress



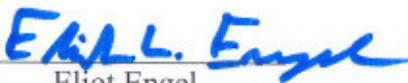
Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



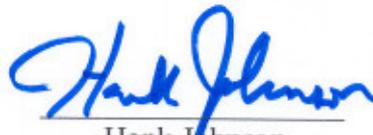
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



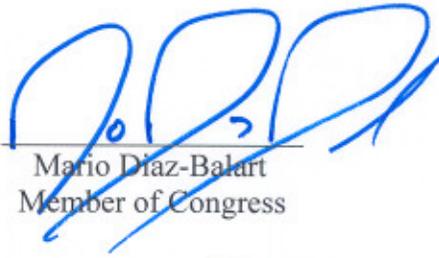
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



Bobby Jindal
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



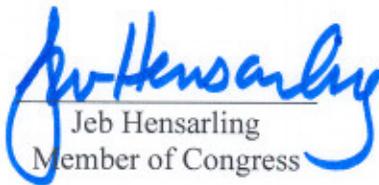
Jim Marshall
Member of Congress



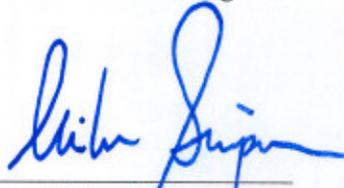
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



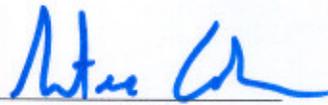
Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Michael Simpson
Member of Congress



Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Ben Chandler
Member of Congress



Allen Boyd
Member of Congress



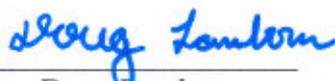
Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



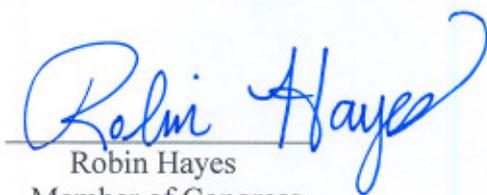
Steve King
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



Robin Hayes
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Richard Baker
Member of Congress



Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress



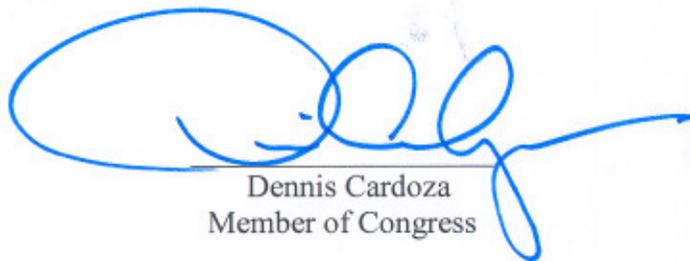
Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



Jane Harman
Member of Congress



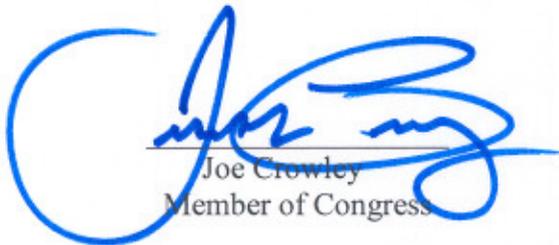
Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress



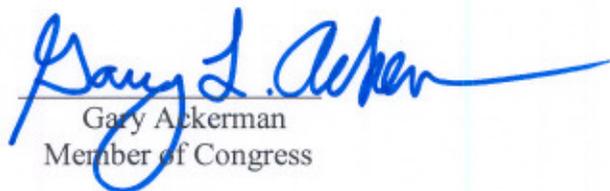
Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress



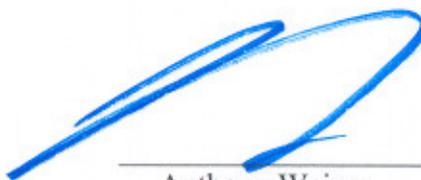
Eric Cantor
Member of Congress



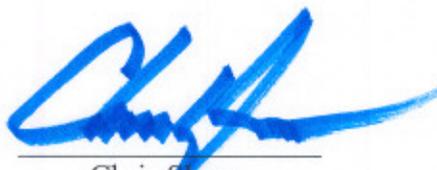
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



John Linder
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



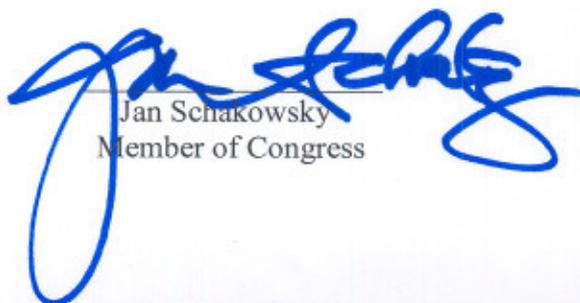
Chris Shays
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Mark Souder
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



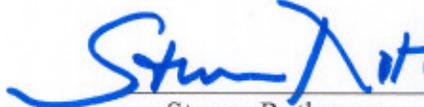
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



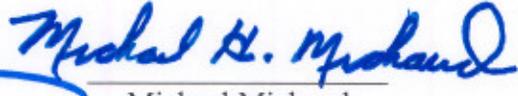
John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Steven Rothman
Member of Congress



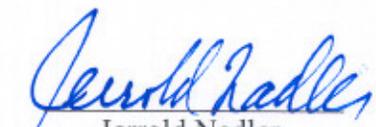
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



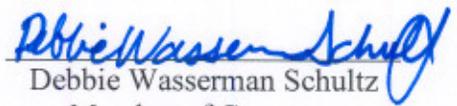
Tim Holden
Member of Congress



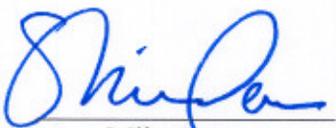
Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



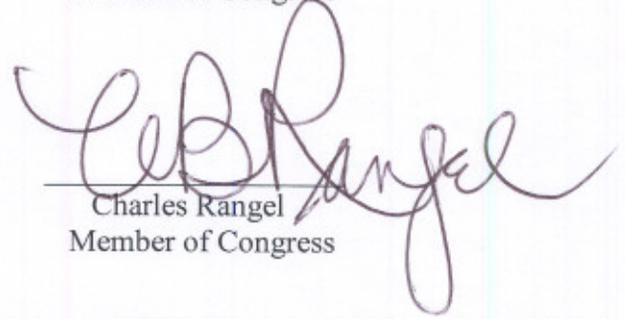
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



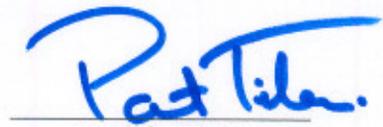
Mike Pence
Member of Congress



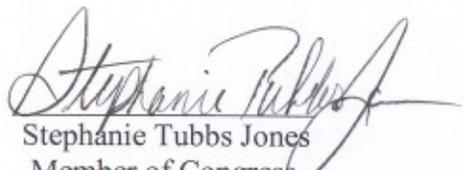
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



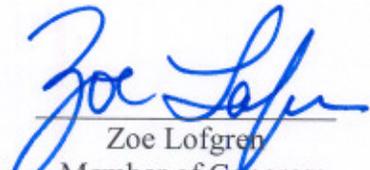
Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Rodney Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress



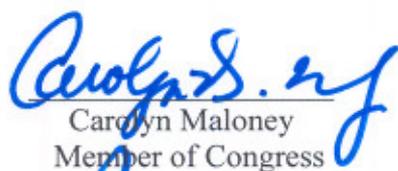
Mike Ferguson
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
Member of Congress



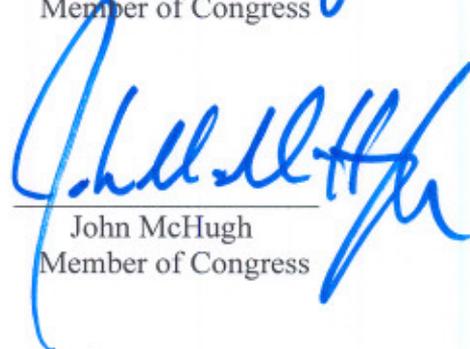
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



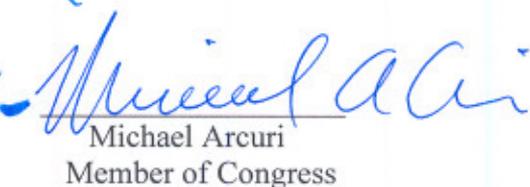
Vito Fossella
Member of Congress



John McHugh
Member of Congress



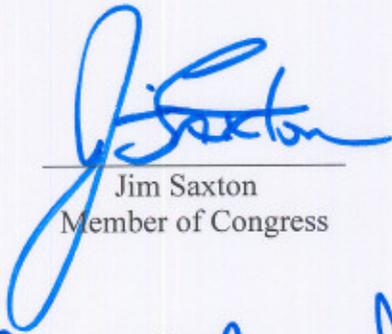
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



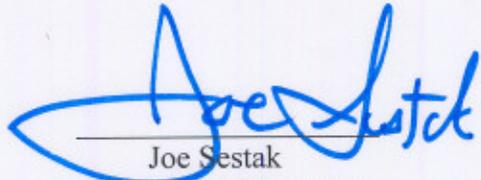
Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress



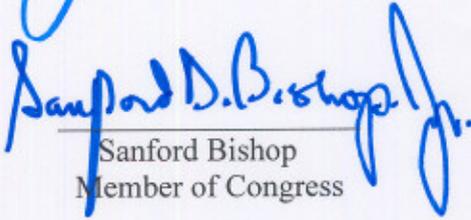
John Hall
Member of Congress



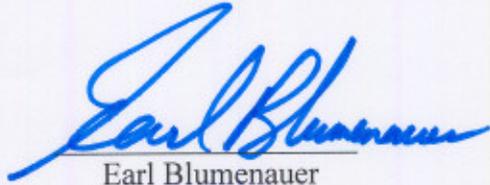
Jim Saxton
Member of Congress



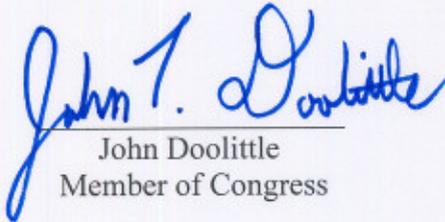
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



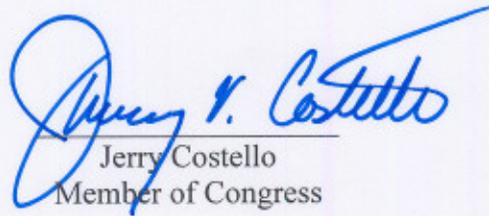
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John Doolittle
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jerry Costello
Member of Congress