



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

April 20, 2004

The Honorable Jim Kolbe  
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Foreign Operations, Export Financing  
and Related Programs  
HB-26 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6021

Dear Chairman Kolbe,

Thank you for your leadership as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. As you prepare the FY2005 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, we write in support of Armenia and US-Armenia relations. We request that you include the following items in the FY2005 bill.

Foreign Military Financing

We are deeply troubled that the Administration's request for Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Azerbaijan is four times as high as the FMF request for Armenia. We believe this imbalance simply cannot be allowed to occur. Congress must take action to ensure that Armenia's level of FMF assistance is raised to \$8 million. U.S. policy toward the south Caucasus has been to maintain parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This policy was reached in agreement with Congress. A lack of parity in FMF would weaken ongoing peace negotiations regarding Nagorno Karabakh. Furthermore, we believe any imbalance will contribute to instability in the region and could unintentionally tip the military balance. **Therefore, we strongly urge you to include \$8 million in FMF for Armenia in the FY2005 bill, equal to the amount for Azerbaijan.**

Economic Assistance to Armenia

The dual blockades of Armenia by Azerbaijan and Turkey continue to impede Armenia's economic well being. Despite the dual blockades by Azerbaijan and Turkey, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms, which have met success. While Armenia continues to make important reforms, as long as Armenia suffers from blockades on its east and west borders, continued and robust U.S. assistance to Armenia is necessary to help minimize their impact. Our assistance has provided an important positive effect and will continue to do so when provided at appropriate levels. For fiscal year

2004, \$75 million was provided for Armenia. Maintaining this level of support is critical. **Therefore, we request you include \$75 million in Economic Support Funds for Armenia.**

Assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh

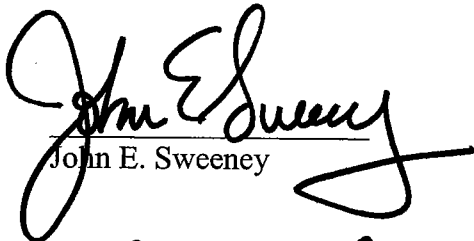
We thank you for your continued support for assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh. This support is in our country's interests and helps alleviate the conditions of the people there. We agree with the USAID Administrator who has testified before Congress about the importance of continuing the work of the agency in Nagorno-Karabakh. It is important for Congress to maintain a strong position on this funding to ensure that these programs continue. **Therefore, we request language directing USAID to spend \$5 million in fiscal year 2005 for programs in Nagorno-Karabakh.**

Section 907

Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act remains a fundamental element of U.S. policy toward the south Caucasus. Because Azerbaijan continues its blockade of Armenia, Section 907 is necessary. As you know, the FY 2002 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act provided a limited and conditional waiver to Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act in order for the U.S. to effectively combat terrorism. Specifically, Secretary of State Colin Powell asked for flexibility to counter terrorist elements and organizations operating within Azerbaijan. We strongly support Section 907 and will oppose any further changes to this law. **We request you join us in opposing any changes to Section 907 in the fiscal year 2005 bill.**

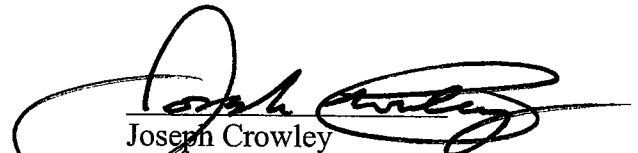
We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

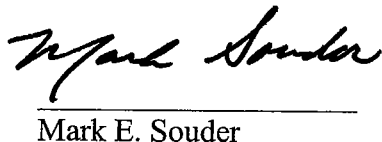
Sincerely,

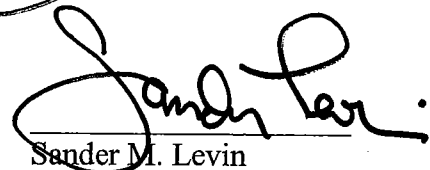
  
John E. Sweeney

  
Frank Pallone, Jr.

  
Randy "Duke" Cunningham

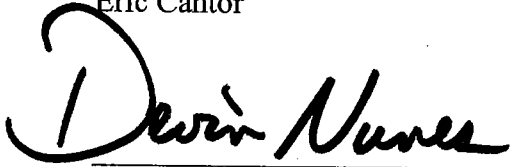
  
Joseph Crowley

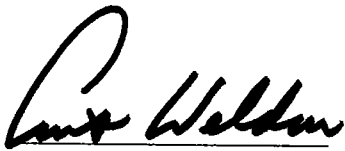
  
Mark E. Souder

  
Sander M. Levin

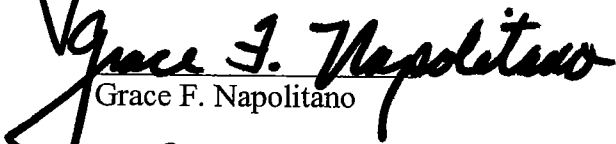
  
Jim Saxton

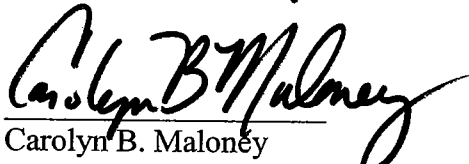
  
Eric Cantor

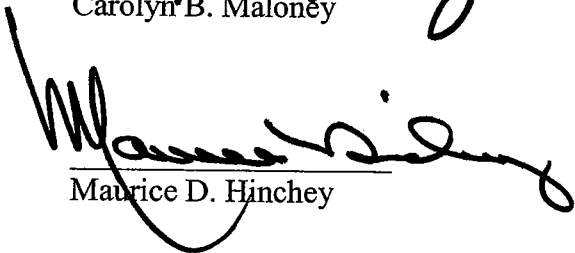
  
Devin Nunes

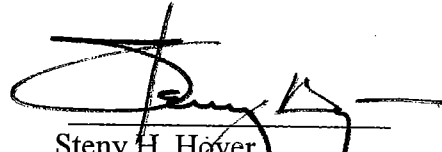
  
Curt Weldon

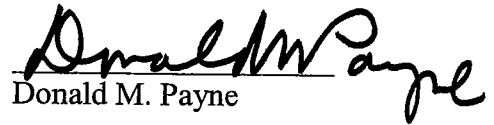
  
James C. Greenwood

  
Grace F. Napolitano

  
Carolyn B. Maloney

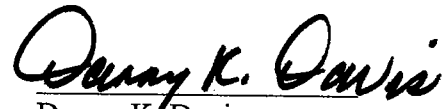
  
Maurice D. Hinchey


  
Steny H. Hoyer


  
Donald M. Payne


  
Steve Israel

  
Michael R. McNulty

  
Danny K. Davis

  
James P. McGovern

  
Anna G. Esch

  
Gerald D. Kleczka

Robert E. Andrews

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Anthony D. Weiner

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Howard L. Berman

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Adam B. Schiff

Adam B. Schiff

Thomas H. Allen

Thomas H. Allen

Edward J. Markey

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John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.

Chris Van Hollen, Jr.

Chris Van Hollen, Jr.

Jerry F. Costello

Jerry F. Costello

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah

Louis Capps

Louis Capps

George P. Radanovich

George P. Radanovich

Joe Baca

Joe Baca

Michael Capuano

Michael Capuano

James R. Langevin

James R. Langevin