

TOM EMMER  
6TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2306**

503 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2331

DISTRICT OFFICE  
9201 QUADAY AVENUE NE  
SUITE 208  
OTSEGO, MN 55330  
(763) 241-8848

SUBCOMMITTEES  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
CONSUMER CREDIT  
MONETARY POLICY  
AND TRADE

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 16, 2015

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We write to inform you of our intention to launch a bi-partisan Cuba Working Group in the U.S. House of Representatives on December 17, 2015. The bi-partisan Cuba Working Group will seek to advance policy proposals that are in our national interest in an era in which the U.S.-Cuba relationship is rapidly being reshaped.

Increasingly, the American people are indicating their desire for a new, more pragmatic approach to Cuba. More people are traveling from the U.S. to Cuba, more businesses are looking for opportunity on the island, and more sectors are eager for trade. The bi-partisan Cuba Working Group will promote a U.S.-Cuba policy that reflects the interests of the American people in engagement with Cuba.

A year ago this month, the United States began a process to remove the burdensome regulations on trade and travel with Cuba while normalizing diplomatic relations with the island. However, congressional action is required to remove the restrictions on commerce and travel that continue to be a barrier to progress. A new policy of engagement will not only provide an economic boost here at home, it will also help to advance the economic development and human rights of the Cuban people.

The current policies that limit financing and marketing American exports harm U.S. competitiveness in the Cuban market and travel restrictions deny Americans their right to travel freely. Economic sanctions on investment, joint-ventures and support to entrepreneurs in Cuba, curtail the possibility of American business-people creating new commercial relationships with the growing numbers of Cubans that participate in the country's emerging private sector. Moreover, while other nations deepen their trade relationship with Cuba, our producers and investors are locked out, pointlessly ceding access to a nearby market. For too long, our policy of isolation has placed our farmers, workers, and companies at a competitive disadvantage and cost our economy an estimated \$2 billion per year in exports.

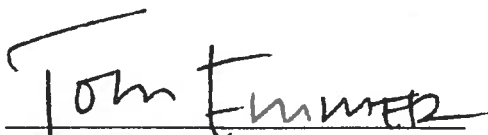
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

We believe that American interests are served through greater engagement with Cuban society. By developing relationships with the Cuban people, business sector and other institutions, the U.S. can participate constructively in a peaceful transition to democracy and a market-oriented economy on the island.

The bi-partisan Cuba Working Group will convene meetings with leading experts on Cuba and foreign affairs, host policy roundtables and discussions and will seek to draw attention to how reforms in the U.S. and Cuba are opening new opportunities for commercial, diplomatic and people-to-people relationships.

Our goal is raise the level of understanding inside of Congress for the need to build a new policy framework for U.S.-Cuban relations. We look forward to working with you on matters related to Cuba.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



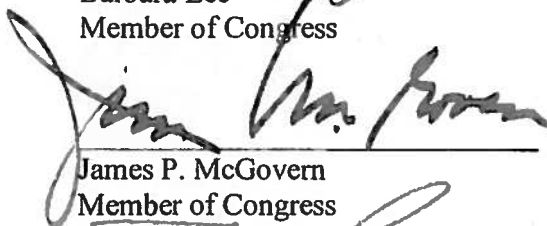
Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



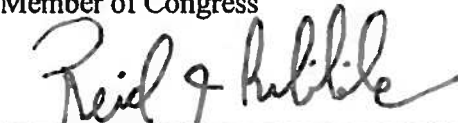
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



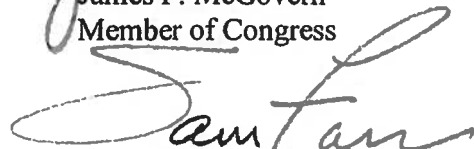
Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



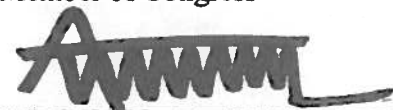
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



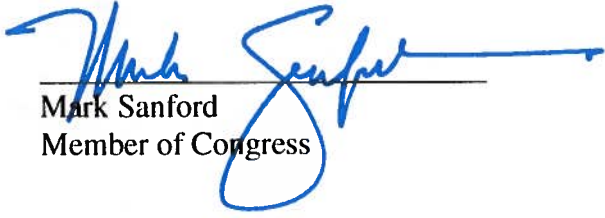
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



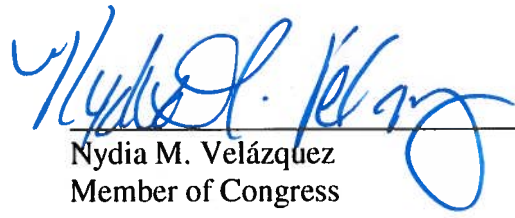
Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress