

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2010

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

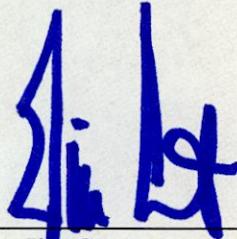
Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Congressional Portuguese Caucus, we urge you to issue an order allowing military assistance in the recovery efforts taking place in Madeira, Portugal as they cope with the aftermath of devastating mudslides. Currently, over forty individuals have been killed due to the torrential rains and flooding that hit the regional capital of Funchal especially hard. Over a dozen Madeirans are still unaccounted for and search and rescue efforts are being hampered by damaged bridges, roads, and other infrastructure. This small island more than 600 miles from mainland Portugal does not have the necessary resources to properly react to a disaster of this magnitude.

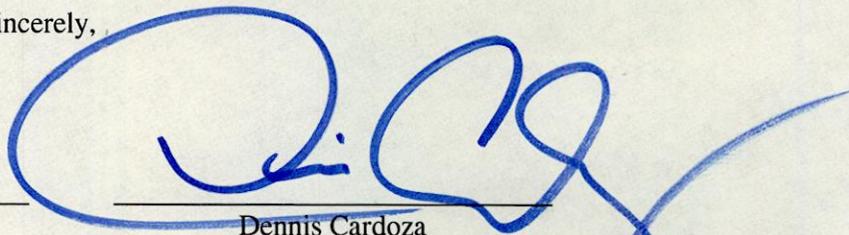
As you know, the 65th Air Base Wing is the American unit stationed at Lajes Field in the Azores, located northwest of the island of Madeira. We trust the administration will find it prudent to offer support to assist with the emergency search and rescue efforts, as Spain has already done. The situation in Madeira remains hazardous, with many individuals evacuated from their homes, and there is a lack of needed supplies.

With our assistance, the United States can offer support for a longtime valuable ally, Portugal and provide assistance to Madeira after this terrible tragedy. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

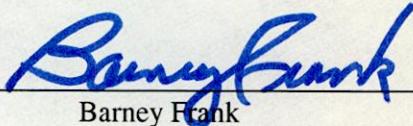
Sincerely,



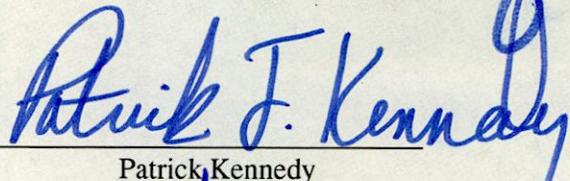
Jim Costa



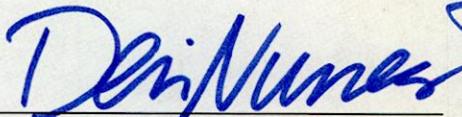
Dennis Cardoza



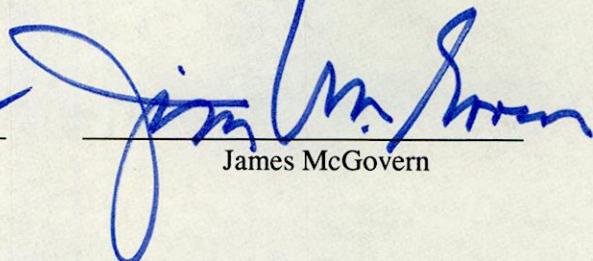
Barney Frank



Patrick Kennedy



Devin Nunes



James McGovern