

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2026

Abelardo De la Espriella
President of the Republic of Colombia
Casa de Nariño
Bogotá, Colombia

Dear President De la Espriella,

We congratulate you on your inauguration as President of Colombia and look forward to working with your administration to strengthen the longstanding partnership between our two countries. Our bilateral relationship is a cornerstone of regional cooperation and a solid foundation for addressing shared security concerns.

Our thoughts go out to all the Colombians who have been affected by the massive earthquake of August 10. We pledge our support, as Members of Congress, for recovery and relief assistance efforts provided by the U.S. government.

The United States and Colombia have worked in close partnership on a broad range of shared priorities, including security, counternarcotics cooperation, peace, trade and investment, education, migration, the promotion of labor and human rights, and the rights and inclusion of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities. This partnership has transcended partisan divides, regardless of who leads our nations.

We recognize that Colombia continues to face significant challenges related to security, justice, the protection of civilians and social leaders, corruption, inequality, and the strengthening of civilian state institutions and governance in conflict-affected, underserved, and remote regions of the country. Based on the experience and lessons learned through decades of partnership between our two countries, we stand ready to work with your administration to address these challenges and advance our shared interests.

One of the enduring lessons of our decades of cooperation is that Colombia's complex and longstanding security challenges require a comprehensive approach that extends beyond security forces alone. We have also learned that lasting peace and the growth of legal economies in the rural and urban areas where illicit economies have taken root require not only an end to violence, but also sustained collaboration with civil society, a stronger civilian state presence, and viable economic alternatives that allow communities to turn away from illicit activities.

The experience of the past two decades suggests that aerial fumigation, while intended to reduce coca cultivation, did not produce durable reductions over the long term. Drug trafficking crosses borders and is driven by both supply and demand, so we must share responsibility for putting in place policies that dismantle these networks and the illegal armed groups that run them.

One of Colombia's strengths is its ethnic, cultural, and biological diversity. Despite important progress, significant inequalities in access to education, employment, and economic opportunity remain, particularly for Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities and for those from rural and disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds. Addressing the needs of these communities remains a priority for us.

The 2016 peace accord, which the U.S. Congress supported on a bipartisan basis, remains a cornerstone for addressing the structural challenges facing your nation. Its transitional justice system, lauded by

experts worldwide, remains the most sophisticated model available for advancing truth, justice, and accountability for the many crimes committed by parties to the conflict. While we agree that adjustments to the overall peace strategy may be warranted, it is vital to continue upholding the obligations of the 2016 accord. Failure to do so could set Colombia back decades and usher in a new cycle of violence. After so much progress achieved with U.S. cooperation and support, such a reversal would be deeply regrettable.

In closing, we reaffirm our interest in working closely with your administration to advance our shared priorities. We look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue based on mutual respect, shared responsibility, and our common commitment to peace, prosperity, democracy, and the rule of law.

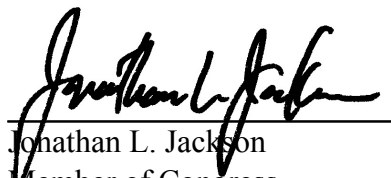
Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



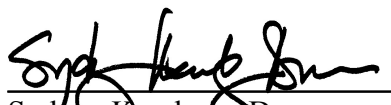
Joaquin Castro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



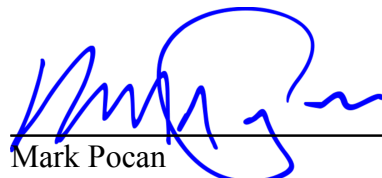
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress