April 20, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing to urge you to properly commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24th.

In leading an honest and accurate American remembrance of this known case of genocide, you will stand with President Reagan, who recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1981, and the Eisenhower Administration, which did the same in a 1951 submission to the International Court of Justice. The House of Representatives has also commemorated the Armenian Genocide, through H.J.Res.148 in 1975 and H.J.Res.247 in 1984.

Armenia remains deeply committed to expanding the bonds of friendship that have long connected the American and Armenian peoples. Among the proudest chapters in our shared history is America's remarkable record of protesting the Genocide and in caring for the survivors of this crime. The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1915, Henry Morgenthau, helped to chronicle the brutal extermination of the Armenian people through a campaign of mass murder and violent expulsion.

In the years after the genocide, Ambassador Morgenthau and other concerned Americans launched the Near East Relief, a congressionally chartered humanitarian organization, which raised $116 million (over $2.7 billion in 2018 dollars) to aid the victims of the Ottoman Empire's mass murder of millions of Armenians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Greeks, Syriacs, and other persecuted peoples. The generosity of the American people saved countless lives and helped to ensure the continued survival of the Armenian culture.

The Armenian Genocide continues to stand as an important reminder that crimes against humanity must not go without recognition and condemnation. Through recognition of the Armenian Genocide we pay tribute to the perseverance and determination of those who survived, as well as to the Americans of Armenian descent who continue to strengthen our country to this day. It is our duty to honor those contributions with an honest statement of history recognizing the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians as the 20th century's first genocide. By commemorating the Armenian Genocide, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities.
In the spirit of honoring the victims and redoubling our commitment to prevent genocide, we ask you to appropriately mark April 24th as a day of American remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

DAVE TROTT
Member of Congress

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress
SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

TIM WALZ
Member of Congress

JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress

RUBEN GALLIGO
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHTOO
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress

THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

DONALD S. BEYER, JR
Member of Congress
SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress

JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress

JOHN YARMUTH  
Member of Congress

RO KHANNA  
Member of Congress

ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
Member of Congress

LOUIE GOHMERT  
Member of Congress

JEFF DENHAM  
Member of Congress

STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress

NITA M. LOWEY  
Member of Congress

TED POE  
Member of Congress

THOMAS R. SUEZI  
Member of Congress

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI  
Member of Congress

DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress
KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress

J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress

CHARLIE CRIST
Member of Congress

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress

BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

KEN BUCK
Member of Congress

TODD ROKITA
Member of Congress

DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress

RALPH NORMAN
Member of Congress

JOE CROWLEY
Member of Congress

TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress

JARED POLIS
Member of Congress

JOHN J. FASO
Member of Congress

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

JEFF FORTENBERRY
Member of Congress

RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress
JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress

RICHARD M. NOLAN  
Member of Congress

KAREN BASS  
Member of Congress

DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress

COLLEEN HANAUSA  
Member of Congress

MIKE COFFMAN  
Member of Congress