

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The President
The White House

September 23, 2010

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to encourage the Administration to take additional steps to define its strategy on Sudan, including delineating benchmarks, timelines, and commitments to support both the South and Abyei referenda and post referenda scenarios. It is important that the Administration publicly declare that the United States government will recognize and help protect the outcome of a free and fair referendum in South Sudan and Abyei. We understand the Administration's need for flexibility in crafting a package of incentives and pressures to ensure full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and a just peace in Darfur. However, given what is at stake, it is also crucial to publicly articulate the consequences for failure to do so.

We have witnessed over the past two decades that the Bashir government has impeded and reneged on agreements on many occasions. A one-sided incentive-based approach is not only ineffective, but it wrongly rewards obstructionism. Furthermore, while there has been much talk of incentives offered to the National Congress Party (NCP), we are not aware of any such offer for South Sudan and other marginalized groups. It is also pivotal that accountability is part and parcel of this new policy approach.

The people of Sudan will most likely be faced with the challenge of a peaceful transition to a new country in the South. Your Administration has recently made much needed strides on its Sudan strategy notably with the appointment of Ambassador Princeton Lyman to lead the U.S. Negotiation Support Unit in Sudan. Ambassador Lyman will undoubtedly play a vital role in negotiations on border issues, citizenship, and oil revenues. It is crucial that the U.S. government support not only the CPA-mandated timeline for a referendum on January 9, 2011, but also full and unhindered implementation of the Abyei Protocol, including that referendum. This is especially true given that Bashir's NCP has reversed recent agreements regarding Abyei and continues to obstruct efforts to setup the Abyei Referendum Commission.

Finally, we hope that you will respond favorably to a meeting request from Sudan's Vice President, Salva Kiir. President Bush met with Vice President Kiir in the Oval Office on several occasions, and we believe this level of engagement is crucial at this moment in Sudan's history.

We look forward to working with you to ensure proper U.S. engagement as Sudan enters this critical phase.

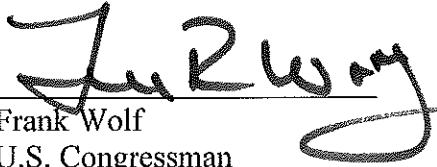
Sincerely,



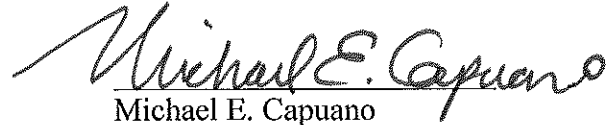
Sam Brownback
U.S. Senator



Donald Payne
U.S. Congressman



Frank Wolf
U.S. Congressman



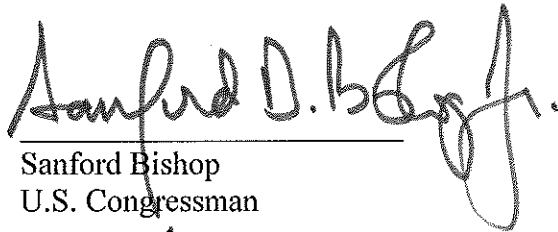
Michael E. Capuano
U.S. Congressman



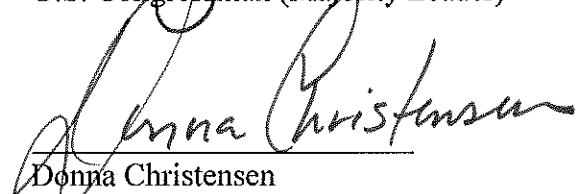
Michael McCaul
U.S. Congressman



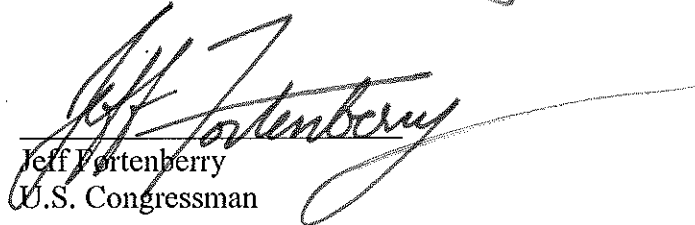
Steny Hoyer
U.S. Congressman (Majority Leader)



Sanford Bishop
U.S. Congressman



Donna Christensen
U.S. Congresswoman



Jeff Fortenberry
U.S. Congressman



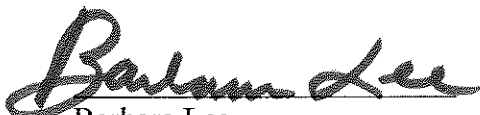
Rush Holt
U.S. Congressman



Michael Honda
U.S. Congressman




Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
U.S. Congressman



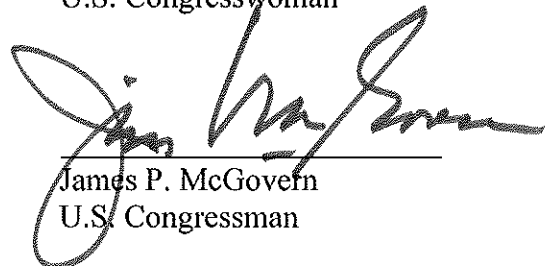
Barbara Lee
U.S. Congresswoman



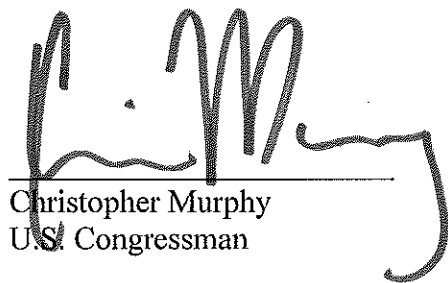
Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. Congresswoman



Stephen Lynch
U.S. Congressman



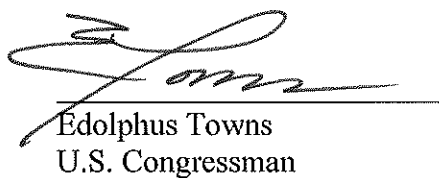
James P. McGovern
U.S. Congressman



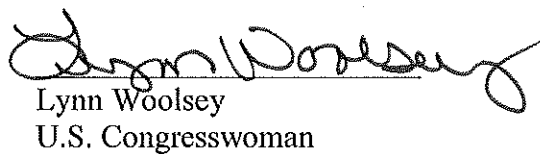
Christopher Murphy
U.S. Congressman



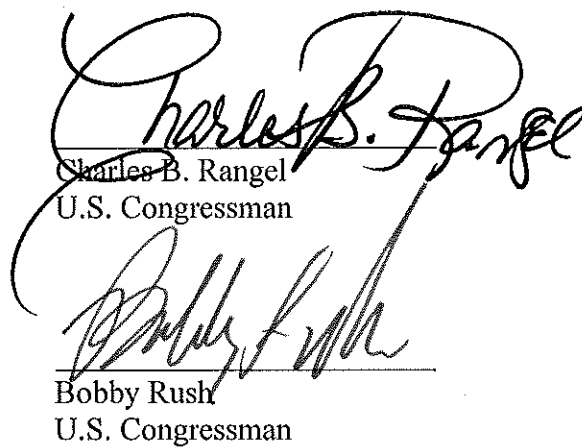
Dave Reichert
U.S. Congressman



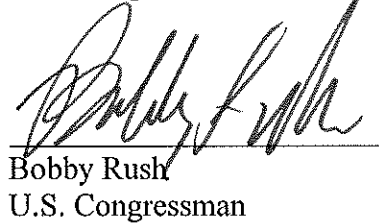
Edolphus Towns
U.S. Congressman



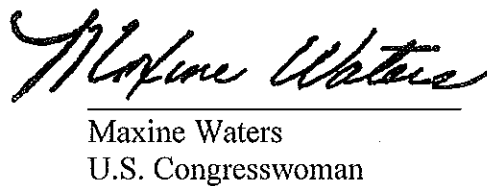
Lynn Woolsey
U.S. Congresswoman



Charles B. Rangel
U.S. Congressman



Bobby Rush
U.S. Congressman



Maxine Waters
U.S. Congresswoman