

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2015

His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae  
Ambassador of Japan to the United States  
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Sasae:

We write to you regarding the upcoming visit of your Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Washington, D.C. We look forward to this visit, as it is both timely and meaningful. The visit at the end of April further underscores the importance and strength of our bilateral relationship, and we congratulate the Prime Minister in the historic opportunity to address a Joint Meeting of Congress.

Mr. Ambassador, we are at a critical juncture in America's rebalance to Asia, and we firmly believe that enhanced cooperation between the United States, Japan, and Korea, will serve as a linchpin of peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region and the broader global community. In this regard, we sincerely hope Prime Minister Abe's visit will lay the foundation for healing and humble reconciliation by addressing the historical issues.

In particular, we respectfully urge the Prime Minister to formally reaffirm and validate the conclusions expressed by previous Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono to "squarely face history," as their remarks signaled two important chapters in Japan's efforts to improve relations with its neighbors.

As you are well aware, 2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. Accordingly, we fervently hope Prime Minister Abe will take advantage of this auspicious milestone during his visit to Washington to enhance Japan's relationships with its neighbors through a vision of long overdue healing and reconciliation which will contribute to future-oriented cooperation.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL M. HONDA  
Member of Congress



STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG  
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress



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GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



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ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



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CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON  
Member of Congress



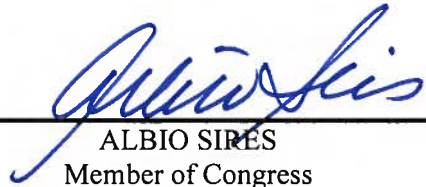
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LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress



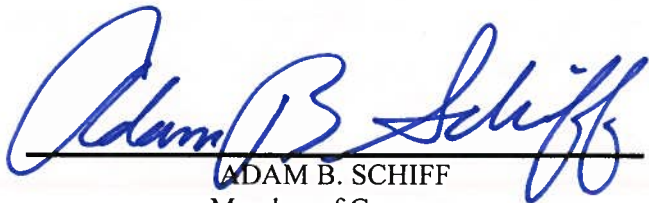
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BLAKE FARENTHOLD  
Member of Congress



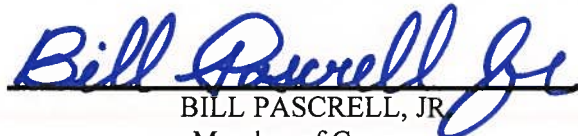
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ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



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ADAM B. SCHIFF  
Member of Congress



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BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress



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ALAN LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress



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PETER J. ROSKAM  
Member of Congress



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BARBARA COMSTOCK  
Member of Congress




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MIKE KELLY  
Member of Congress



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JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress



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TOM REED  
Member of Congress



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LINDA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress



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ROB WOODALL  
Member of Congress



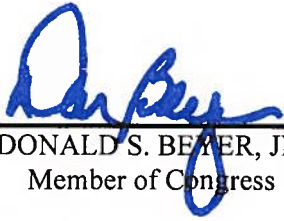
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DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress



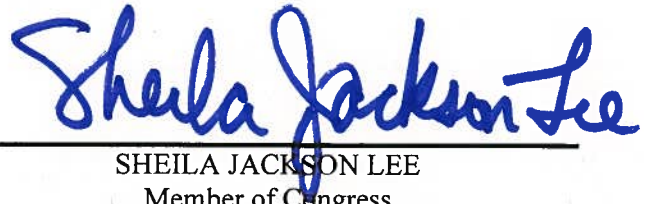
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EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Member of Congress



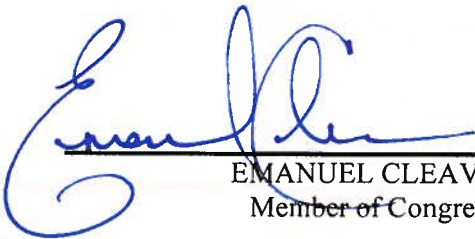
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DONALD S. BEYER, JR.  
Member of Congress



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SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress



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EMANUEL CLEAVER  
Member of Congress

cc: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe  
Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida