United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 6, 2014

Secretary John Kerry
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

Nearly three months ago, Typhoon Haiyan devastated parts of the Philippines, killing more than 6,000 people. Last November, twenty senators sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security in support of granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Filipinos. As we understand it, the Department of State is part of the interagency discussions about whether to grant TPS. We are writing to ask that you also support the granting of TPS to eligible Filipino nationals who are in the United States.

Photographs of the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan show the immense destruction caused by the storm. In some areas, nearly all the buildings were destroyed. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), more than one million homes in the Philippines were damaged or destroyed, and more than four million people were displaced. In total, sixteen million people in the Philippines were affected by Typhoon Haiyan — nearly one out of every six people in the country.

The magnitude of the destruction has continued to put strain on the local governments' ability to provide basic services to their people. We appreciate the assistance that the State Department and USAID have provided to the Philippines for hurricane relief. But we believe that TPS should also be granted to Filipinos in the U.S. until they can safely return to the Philippines without putting further stress on efforts to provide typhoon survivors with food, water, and shelter.

In the past, the United States has granted TPS to citizens of other countries that have been struck by severe natural disasters. For example, the U.S. granted TPS to Honduran and Nicaraguan citizens after Hurricane Mitch in 1999, and to

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Salvadorans after the earthquakes in 2001. More recently, the U.S. granted TPS to Haitian nationals after the earthquake in 2010. As explained in the enclosed memorandum by the National Filipino American Lawyers Association and the New York Legal Assistance Group, the situation in the Philippines meets the statutory requirements for granting TPS as the law was applied to these other countries. We respectfully ask that you give equal consideration to the Philippines and support the granting of TPS.

Once again we appreciate your consideration and look forward to receiving a timely response to our request.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Dean Heller
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

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Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

Mark Kirk
United States Senator

Harry Reid
United States Senator

John McCain
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

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