September 11, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke,

We write to strongly urge you to renew the Temporary Protected Status designation for Honduras and El Salvador.

Failing to renew TPS would needlessly tear apart families and communities across the country. There are currently approximately 200,000 Salvadorans who hold TPS and the approximately 61,000 Hondurans. TPS holders from Honduras and El Salvador have become valued and important members of our communities. They have started families, opened businesses, and contributed to this country in countless ways. They are part of the fabric of America.

Honduras and El Salvador remain unprepared to receive these individuals. As the most recent TPS extension notes, there is a "substantial, but temporary, disruption of living conditions" in both countries, resulting from Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and a series of earthquakes in El Salvador. Unfortunately, conditions have not sufficiently improved since the most recent extension. Additionally, El Salvador and Honduras are ranked as among the most violent countries in the world, and job opportunities are scarce. These factors complicate the ability of Honduras and El Salvador to fully recover from the natural disasters that resulted in their original designation.

The potential return of hundreds of thousands of former TPS holders to Honduras and El Salvador would likely bring destabilizing consequences throughout the region. At the Conference for Prosperity and Security in Central America, you stated that the "U.S. Homeland Security mission is affected directly by what goes on in Central America." We agree, and we are deeply concerned that failing to renew TPS status for Honduras and El Salvador would undermine U.S. efforts to advance prosperity and security in Central America.

TPS designations have been made and extended under administrations of both political parties since its creation by statute in 1990; extension of these TPS designations is not only fully within your authority but completely appropriate given the country conditions. We strongly urge you to renew TPS, in order to preserve the integrity of American families and communities, and to steady the path of progress being made toward stability in the region.
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress