

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 10, 2014

The Honorable Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative  
The Office of the United States Trade Representative  
6007 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

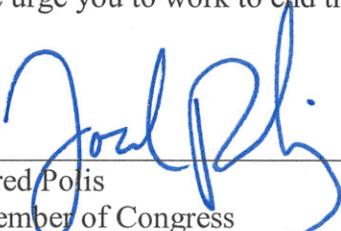
As the final rounds of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement and the U.S.-Japan Parallel Negotiations are considered, we urge you to ensure that any final agreement ends the mass killing of whales and dolphins in Japan.

Last month, fishermen slaughtered and captured hundreds of bottlenose dolphins in Taiji, Japan. The yearly dolphin drive hunt is inhumane; dolphins are herded into a cove where they are trapped or killed. Since dolphins are not protected by the International Whaling Commission, the TPP and parallel negotiations with Japan offer an opportunity for the United States to end the inhumane slaughter of dolphins.

We are also concerned about a loophole in International Whaling Commission law allows Japan to kill approximately 1,000 whales each year. The agreement permits governments to grant "any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take and treat whales for the purposes of scientific research." Australia has already sued Japan in the International Court of Justice to end Japan's whale hunt under the thinly veiled guise of research. Trade negotiations with Japan offer an opportunity for the U.S. to ensure the yearly whale hunt is ended.

We understand that in previous negotiation rounds, TPP negotiators discussed a ban on commercial whaling and protections for dolphins and other marine animals. We are concerned that these provisions may no longer be included in the text. We request that language that ensures the protection of dolphins, whales, and other marine animals is included in the final TPP text.

We remain optimistic about the job creation and economic growth prospects that increased trade with our TPP partners could provide to our country. This trade agreement should reflect our universal human values, but also include fully-enforceable provisions to safeguard these values. While negotiating TPP and any parallel agreements with Japan, we urge you to work to end this inhumane practice of killing dolphins and whales.

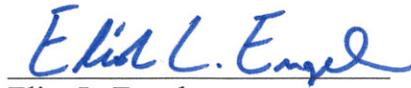
  
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Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

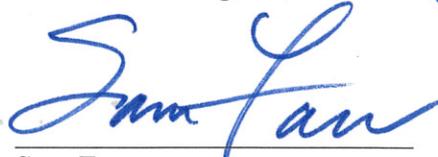
Sincerely,

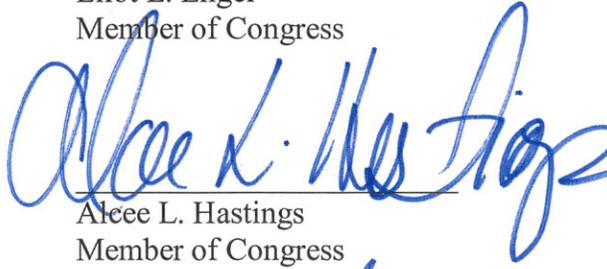
  
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Jim Moran  
Member of Congress

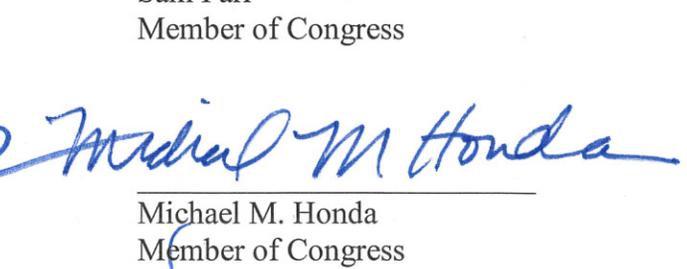
  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

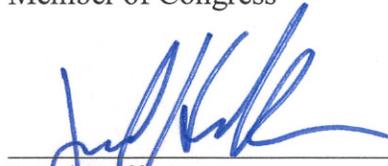
  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

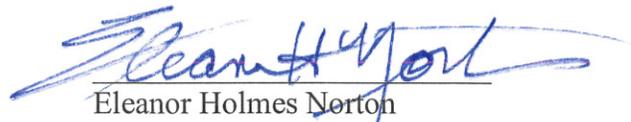
  
Alee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

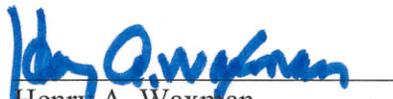
  
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress