

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8th, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We would like to inquire about reports that the White House has blocked the exhibition of the "Armenian Orphan Rug," a pivotal icon related to the Armenian Genocide. The item was requested for display at an event scheduled to open on December 16.

This historic rug was hand-woven by orphans of the Armenian Genocide. It was made in an American-sponsored orphanage run by a U.S. charity that was created by an act of Congress. The carpet, which has over 4 million hand-tied knots, was presented in 1925 to President Calvin Coolidge as a symbol of gratitude for American aid and generosity. President Coolidge noted that "the rug has a place of honor in the White House where it will be a daily symbol of goodwill on earth." Publicized in the *New York Times* and many other outlets, the rug's presentation to President Coolidge resulted in millions of dollars being raised for humanitarian assistance.

The Armenian Orphan Rug is a shared piece of American and Armenian history that belongs to the American people. For over a decade, Armenian-American organizations have repeatedly asked the White House and the State Department to allow the rug to be displayed publicly. Unfortunately, these requests have not been granted.

We urge you to release this American treasure for exhibition, and we look forward to working with you toward this end.

Sincerely,



Rep. David G. Valadao



Rep. Adam Schiff

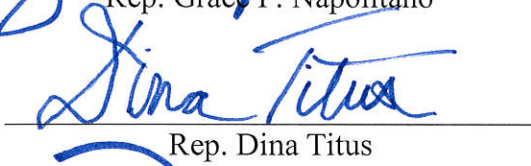


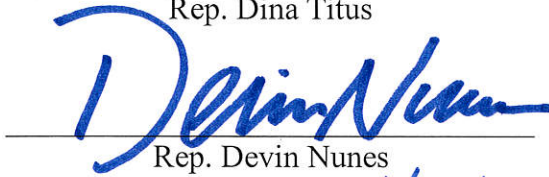
Rep. Barbara Lee

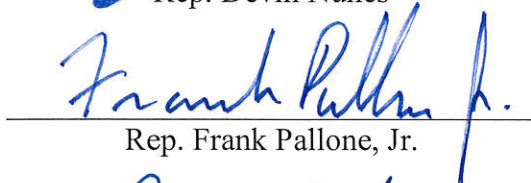


Rep. Brad Sherman


Rep. Grace F. Napolitano


Rep. Dina Titus


Rep. Devin Nunes



Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.


Rep. Rush Holt


Rep. Nita M. Lowey

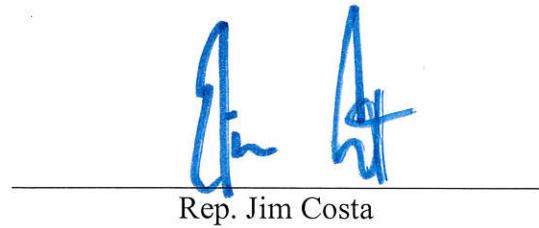

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva


Rep. Raul Ruiz

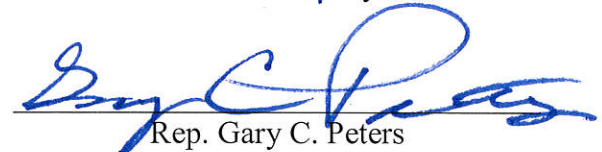

Rep. Frank R. Wolf


Rep. John D. Dingell

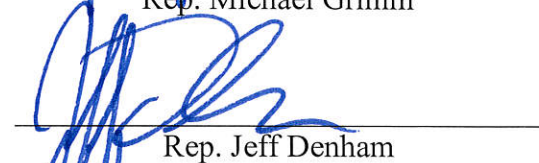

Rep. Scott Garrett

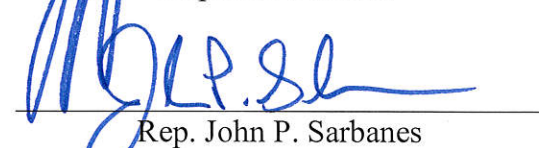

Rep. Jim Costa


Chairman Ed Royce

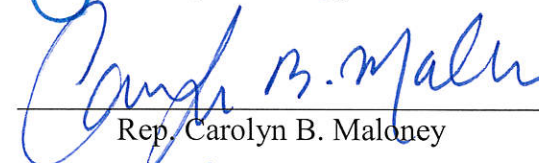

Rep. Gary C. Peters


Rep. Michael Grimm


Rep. Jeff Denham


Rep. John P. Sarbanes

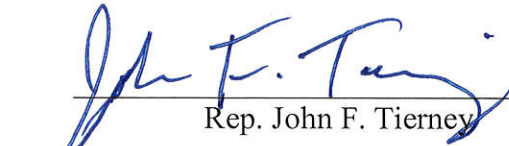

Rep. Jim Langevin


Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney


Rep. Tony Cardenas

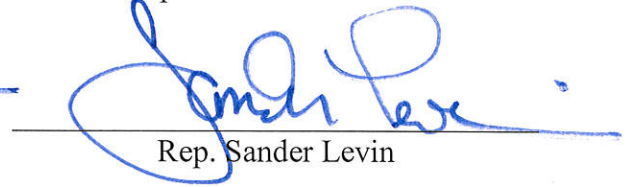

Rep. Jan Schakowsky

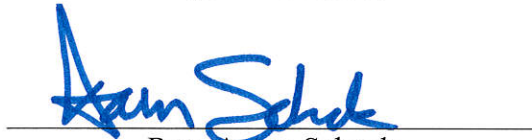

Rep. Jackie Speier


Rep. John F. Tierney


Rep. David N. Cicilline


Rep. Mike Honda


Rep. Sander Levin


Rep. Aaron Schock