

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20510

November 14, 2022

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Special Envoy Kerry,

As you know, the United States is the world's largest historical contributor to climate change. Yet as we've seen with the historic flooding in Pakistan, the fourth consecutive drought in the Horn of Africa, the painfully slow recovery from hurricane damage in Central America, among many other examples, it is the Global South that disproportionately suffers the harms. We have both a moral and a strategic responsibility to provide comprehensive support for countries facing climate disaster, including debt forgiveness and reparations. While we work toward those crucial goals, there are also smaller but no less important mechanisms we should be supporting.

One specific step we urge you to take immediately is to throw the United States' support behind the establishment of a Loss & Damage Finance Facility under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for the purpose of channeling new, grant-based public finance from developed to developing countries to help them recover from climate catastrophes.

We are encouraged that the Biden administration has accepted formal discussions of Loss & Damage at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27. We hope you will build on that commitment and continue engaging in good faith discussion to ensure the world's most vulnerable communities receive life-saving resources in times of crisis.

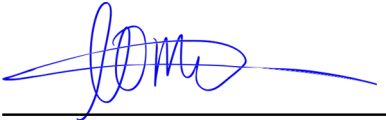
Ad hoc humanitarian assistance flows, insurance schemes, debt-based financing, and neglected existing funds under the UNFCCC are wholly insufficient to address the current reality in which countries are facing billions of dollars in loss and damage needs. A collaborative international effort is needed to make more high-quality, accessible, and fit-for-purpose financing available, especially to account for losses and damages caused by climate emergencies. Such financing must be supplementary to climate financing for mitigation and adaptation and should be unconditional public funding that does not deepen the debt crises faced by many vulnerable countries.

We believe that a new L&D fund that is carefully designed and negotiated could both urgently address such funding gaps and fully embrace a transformative global climate justice framework. We have a momentous opportunity to bring other partner countries to the table and shape an equitable path forward – as you know and have proven repeatedly in your own career, when the

United States leads, others follow. Our leadership in supporting loss and damage financing would pave the way for transformative improvements in the global response on climate.

We look forward to working with you, your team, and the rest of the Administration in pushing for the most effective global climate action, beginning with U.S. leadership on a loss & damage framework.

Sincerely,



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



CORI BUSH  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

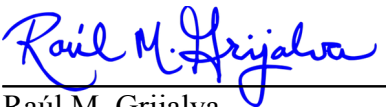
André Carson  
Member of Congress



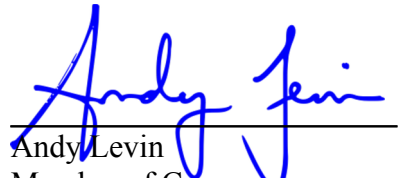
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



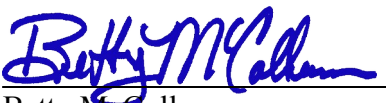
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



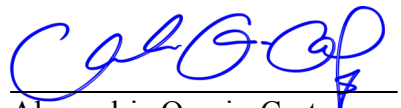
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



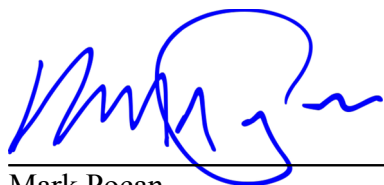
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

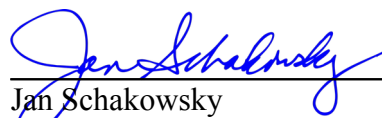


Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



---

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



---

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress