

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

In response to Hurricane Felix, I am writing to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) use its authority under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (P.L.107-296) to re-designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nicaraguan and Honduran nationals to include more recent arrivals residing in the United States. Hurricane Felix, a Category 5 storm, hit Nicaragua and Honduras on September 4, 2007, and left at least 130 people dead, 86 missing, and destroyed 19,000 homes.

On December 30, 1998, TPS was designated for Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals because of the extraordinary displacement and damage from Hurricane Mitch. The current designation continues to reflect the original eligibility requirements that were established when TPS was first designated to Nicaragua and Honduras. To benefit from TPS, Nicaraguan and Honduran nationals must show that they have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since December 30, 1998. Considering the devastating effects of Hurricane Felix, a new designation date would allow more recent arrivals who have been negatively impacted by the hurricane to benefit from TPS.

Congress recognized damage of Hurricane Felix when it passed H.Res.642 on September 25, 2007. Re-designating TPS for Nicaraguans and Hondurans will help the ongoing mission of humanitarian aid and reconstruction in the region. I hope DHS will use its authority to re-designate TPS. I respectfully request a response to this letter by November 28, 2007.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress



HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress



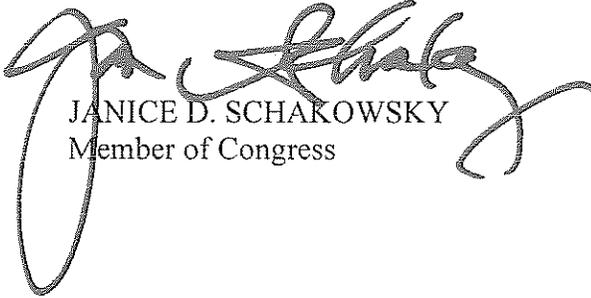
ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



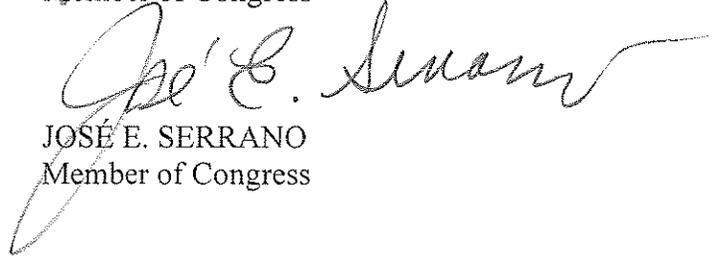
MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
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JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
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JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress