

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2016

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Secretary
United States Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Lew,

Recently, the Treasury Department imposed sanctions against Celestin Kanyama, a senior police official in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for his role in the violent oppression of political dissidents. While we support this action, we respectfully urge you to expand sanctions and impose additional penalties, including anti money laundering initiatives, against the principal officials in President Kabila's regime who are directly responsible for the detention of political prisoners and suppression of peaceful democratic activity in Congo.

For the past two years, President Kabila and many in his regime have taken continuous actions that undermine the democratic processes in Congo. As you know, Executive Order 13413, implemented in 2006 and amended in 2014, authorizes sanctions to punish those in Congo who commit various human rights abuses, including suppressing democracy, arming and recruiting child soldiers, attacking peacekeepers, obstructing humanitarian operations, and exploiting natural resources.

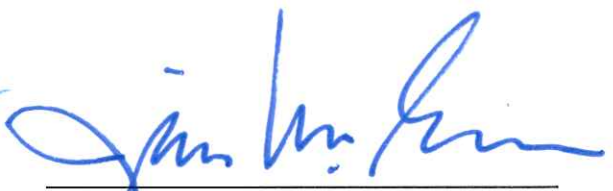
President Kabila and his senior leadership officials have jailed dozens of democratic youth leaders and opposing politicians, closed radio and television stations, and violently broken up peaceful demonstrations. Despite the arrests and abuse, many activists continue to advocate peacefully for their democratic rights.

The United States must stand for democracy around the world and use its substantial financial leverage to address human rights and compel foreign governments to correct abuses. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



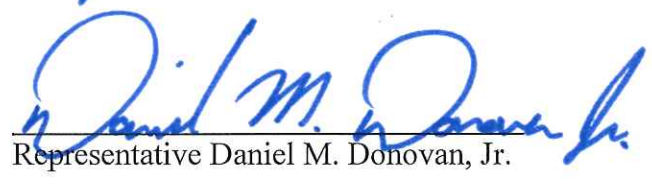
Representative Robert Pittenger



Representative James P. McGovern

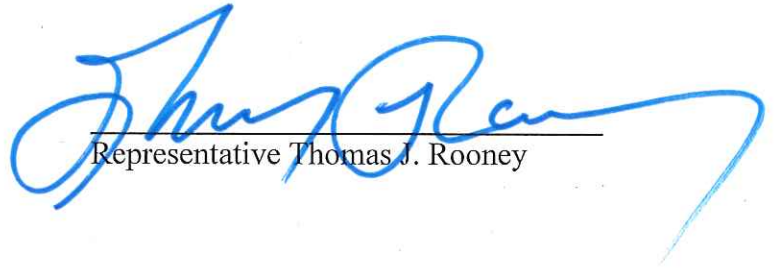


Representative David N. Cicilline



Representative Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.


Representative Gwen Moore


Representative Thomas J. Rooney