

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2007

Support Debt Cancellation for Haiti

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to cosponsor *H.Res. 241*, a resolution that calls for the complete cancellation of Haiti's multilateral debts.

On May 14, 2006, Rene Garcia Preval was sworn in as the President of Haiti, following democratic elections in which 2.2 million Haitians – more than 60 percent of registered voters – participated. President Preval's election is a sign of hope for the people of Haiti who have suffered tremendously as a result of violence and natural disasters. However, the government of Haiti needs the support and assistance of the international community to ensure national reconciliation and sustainable development for the Haitian people. Debt cancellation is essential to this process.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Haiti owes over one billion dollars to multilateral financial institutions. Of this total, \$21.4 million is owed to the IMF, \$507.1 million to the World Bank, and \$533.9 million to the Inter-American Development Bank. Much of this debt burden was accumulated during the oppressive rule of the Duvalier regimes, neither of which used the money to benefit the Haitian people.

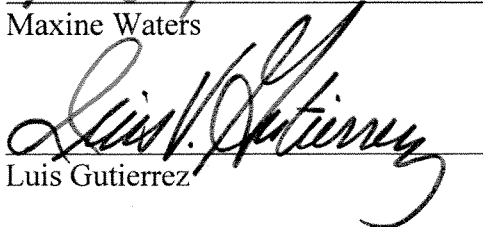
H.Res. 241 urges the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral financial institutions to cancel Haiti's debts completely and immediately. The resolution also urges the Secretary of the Treasury to use the voice, vote and influence of the United States within these institutions to accomplish this important goal. Cancellation of Haiti's debts will enable the democratically-elected government to improve health care, education and other essential government services; invest in critical infrastructure; and improve the lives of the Haitian people.

We hope you will join us and support complete debt cancellation for the people of Haiti. If you want to cosponsor this resolution or need further information, please contact Kathleen Sengstock of Congresswoman Waters' staff at x52201.

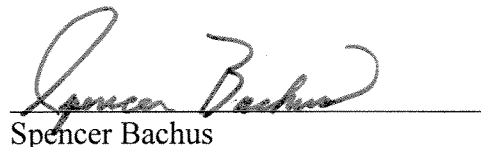
Sincerely,



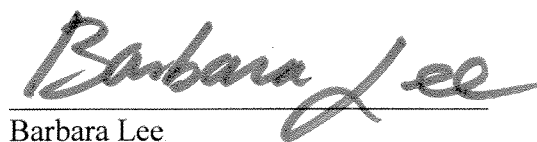
Maxine Waters



Luis Gutierrez



Spencer Bachus



Barbara Lee