

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2016

The Hon. John F. Kerry, Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520


Dear Mr. Secretary:

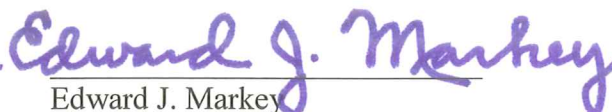
We write in support of our friend, Massachusetts State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry who wrote to you earlier this month expressing concern about an announcement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, regarding the proposed shipment of 500 metric tons of surplus peanuts to Haiti. Senator Forry tells us that she spoke on April 12, 2016, with Kenneth H. Merten, Haiti Special Coordinator, and that he understood her concerns. We are grateful that the Department of State responded so promptly to Senator Forry, whom we all respect for her solicitude for Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora, whom we too are proud to represent. We urge you to use the wisdom and influence of the Department of State to encourage the Department of Agriculture to reconsider this plan.

We are all aware, and who could not be, that our country's immense agricultural bounty nourishes persons around the world. Our food aid in the aftermath of conflict and famine has, no doubt, saved millions of lives. We recognize this but we recognize also that U.S. food exports should not undermine local efforts for food sufficiency or sustainable development. Sen. Forry reports, and Mr. Merten must surely be cognizant of this also, that the peanut industry in Haiti has made a good recovery after the earthquake of 2010, creating new jobs, community stability, and economic opportunities. Flooding the Haitian market with USDA peanuts would have, she writes, *devastating effects on the newly thriving Haitian peanut industry.*

We urge you to do all within your power to prevent so unfortunate an outcome, and we await your response.

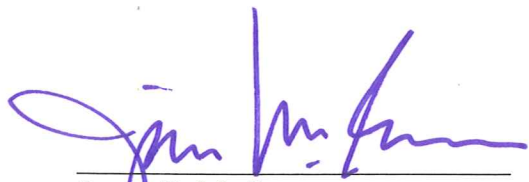
Sincerely,


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

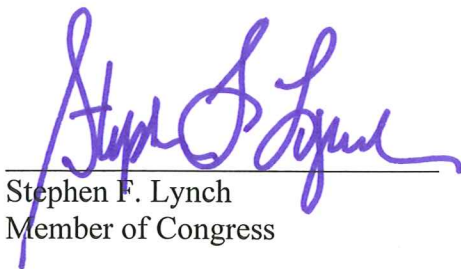

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



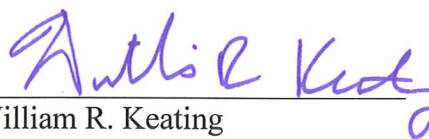
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



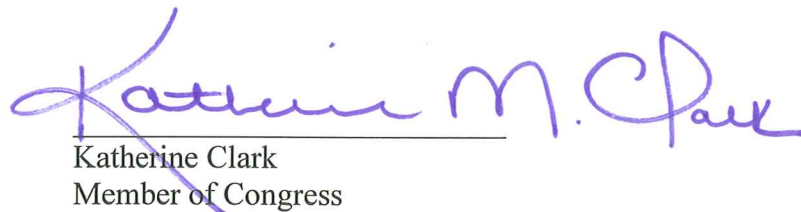
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



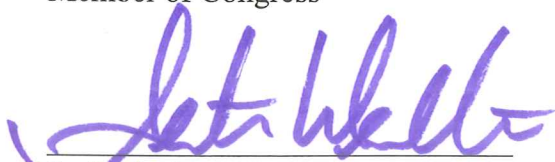
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Cc: The Hon. Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
H.E. Peter F. Mulrean, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti
The Hon. Linda Dorcea Forry
Kenneth H. Merten, Haiti Special Coordinator