

Statement in Defense and Support of Ambassador Susan E. Rice

Acknowledging the Extraordinary Contributions of an Exemplary American Diplomat and Servant

In January 2009, when President Obama nominated Susan Rice to the post of U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations and a member of his Cabinet, he did so knowing very well there were few with more skill, depth of experience and long-standing commitment to service. President Obama nominated a Rhodes Scholar, Stanford University graduate and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State.

Over the last several days, Senators McCain, Graham, and Ayotte have gone to extraordinary lengths to level unfair attacks against a stalwart American whose public service spans two administrations. In particular, Mr. McCain's assertion that Ambassador Rice is "unqualified" is unsettling. It is disappointing that someone who has served his nation with distinction – both in the Navy and the U.S. Senate – would stoop to petty politics rather than direct precious time and energy to discussions around the safety and security of our foreign service and civil servants.

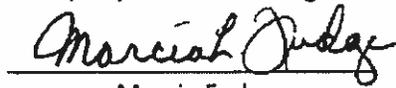
We call on Senators McCain, Graham, and Ayotte to immediately retract their troubling remarks and shift focus to the important and critical security concerns of our diplomats abroad.

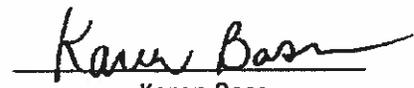
In nominating Ambassador Rice, the President recognized the extraordinary contributions she has made in the service of her nation and in international relations. From 2002 to 2009, Rice was a foreign policy Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. From 1995 to 1997, she served as Special Assistant to President Clinton and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council. And from 1993 to 1995, she served as the Director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping on the National Security Council. Throughout her impressive career, Ambassador Rice has promoted peace and security in regions plagued by instability and crisis and has been a champion in the difficult work to advance U.S. national security and U.S interests abroad.

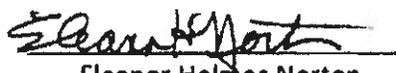
President Obama recently noted of Ambassador Rice's service, "Let me say specifically about Susan Rice: She has done exemplary work. She has represented the U.S. and our interests in the U.N. with skill and professionalism and toughness and grace."

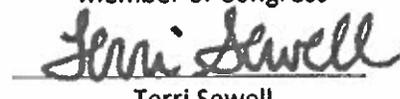
As the recipient of the 2000 Samuel Nelson Drew Memorial Award for distinguished contributions to the formation of peaceful, cooperative relationships between states and an expert on fragile states, global poverty and transitional security, Ambassador Rice is an American treasure. We applaud Ambassador Rice for her exemplary service to our great nation.

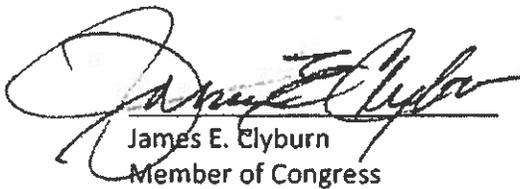

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

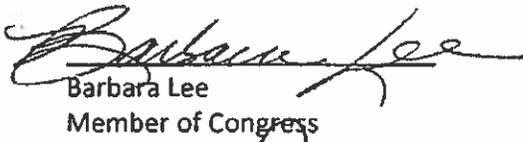

Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress

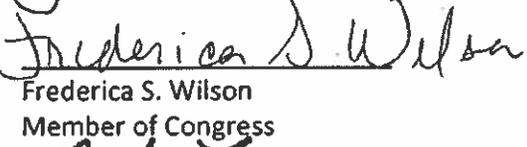

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

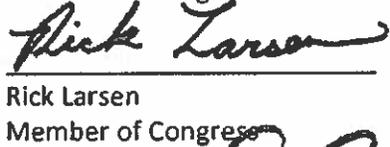

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

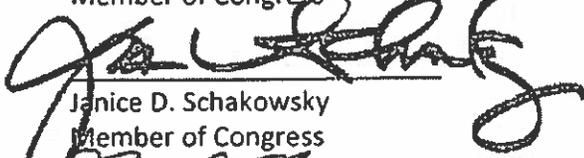

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

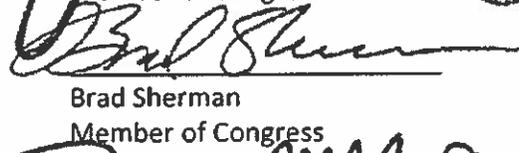

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

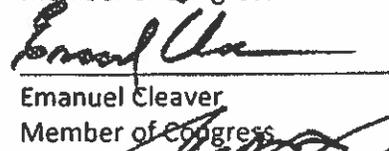

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

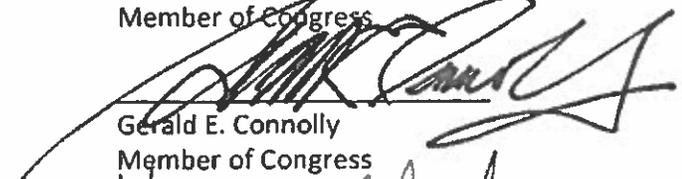

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

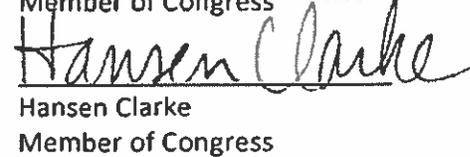

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

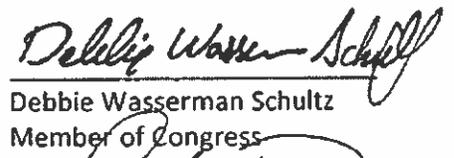

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

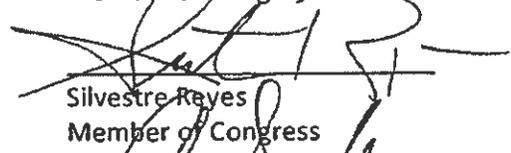

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

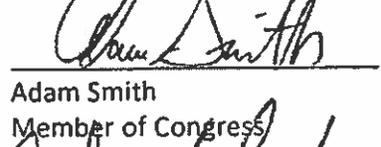

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

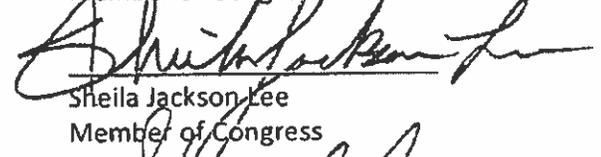

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

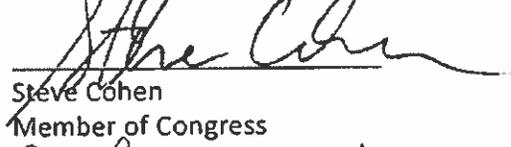

Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress

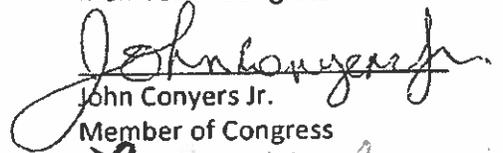

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

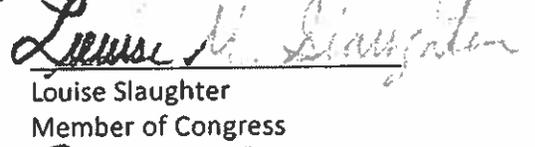

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

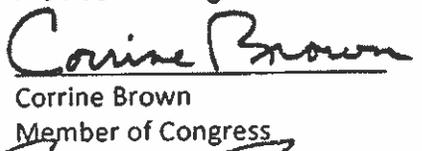

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

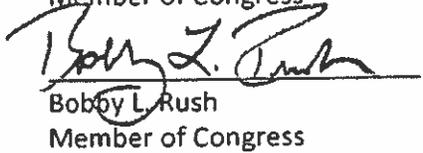

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

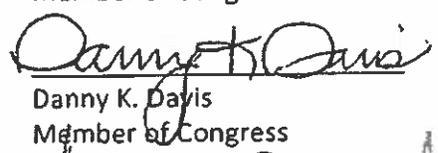

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

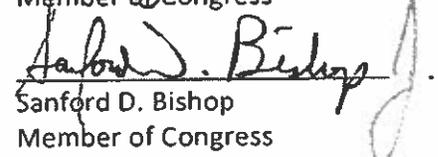

John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

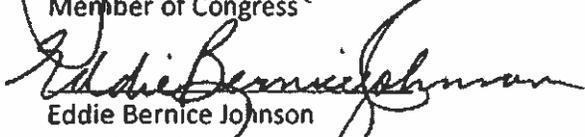

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

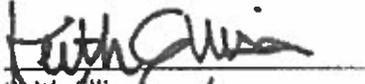

Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress

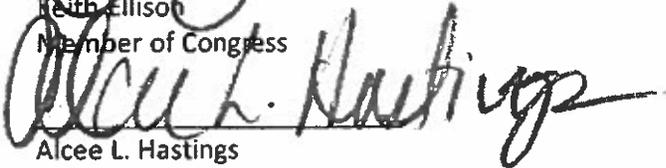

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

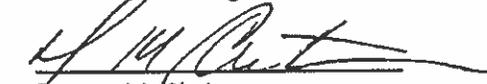

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

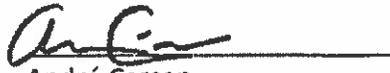

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

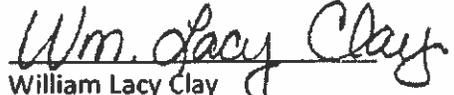

Robert "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

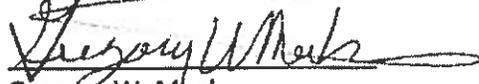

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

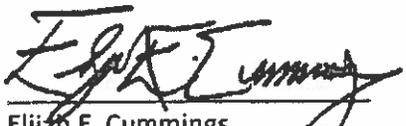

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

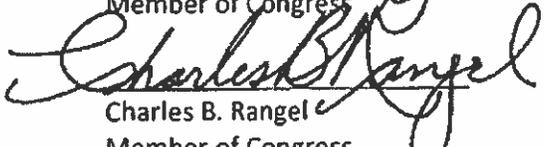

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

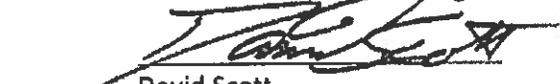

André Carson
Member of Congress


William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

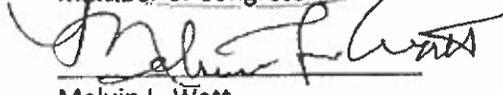

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress


Elijan E. Cummings
Member of Congress

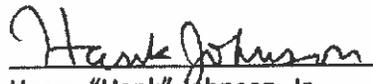

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

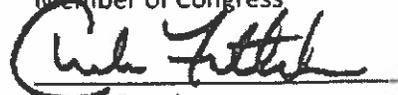

David Scott
Member of Congress

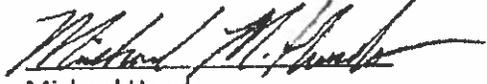

Al Green
Member of Congress

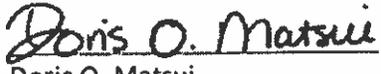

Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Henry "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

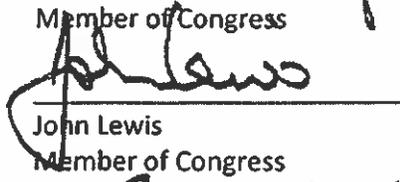

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress

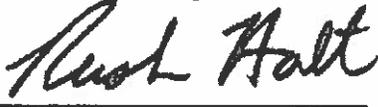

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



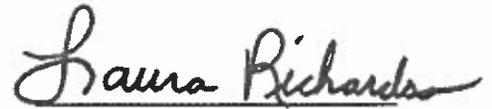
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



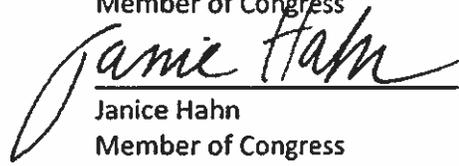
John Lewis
Member of Congress



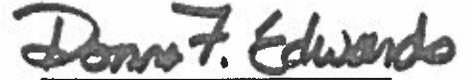
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress