



Attention:
Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: September 25, 2006

Re: **Please support democracy in Nagorno Karabagh**

If you haven't already, please consider joining with over 75 of your U.S. House colleagues in signing the attached letter in support of democracy in the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh.

Also attached please find a Dear Colleague letter circulated today by the Co-Chairmen of the Armenian Caucus, Joe Knollenberg and Frank Pallone. **The extended deadline to co-sign is this Friday, September 29th.**

Questions: Please contact the ANCA at (202) 775-1918 or anca@anca.org, or the NKR Office at (202) 223-4330 or info@nkrusa.org.

To cosign: Please contact Lindsay Lee in Representative Knollenberg's office at 5-5802 or Tiffany Guarascio in Representative Pallone's office at 5-4671.

ANCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
888 17th Street NW, Suite 904
Washington, DC 20006
ph: 202 775 1918, fx: 202 775 5648
www.anca.org, anca@anca.org

ANCA WESTERN REGION
104 N Belmont Street, 2nd Floor
Glendale, CA 91204
ph: 818 500 1918, fx: 818 246 7353
www.anca.org, ancawr@anca.org

ANCA EASTERN REGION
80 Bigelow Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472
ph: 617 923 1918, fx: 617 923 5525
www.ancaer.org, anca@anca.org

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2006

SUPPORT THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC
SIGN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH
DEADLINE EXTENDED!!!

Dear Colleague:

Recently Nagorno-Karabakh, Artsakh, celebrated its 15th year of independence. As they continue to advance toward freedom, peace, and prosperity, we invite you to sign the attached letter to President George W. Bush in support of their progress.

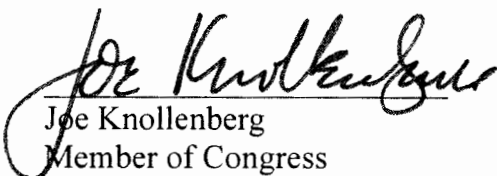
For the past 15 years, Nagorno-Karabakh has dedicated itself to establishing democracy in the face of critical neighboring nations. The United States has played an important role in aiding Nagorno-Karabakh's progress. Promoting economic freedom and maintaining a young democracy is a challenge Nagorno-Karabakh has undertaken without hesitation. It is crucial the United States continues to offer not only its moral support of Nagorno-Karabakh's democracy, but also provide desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

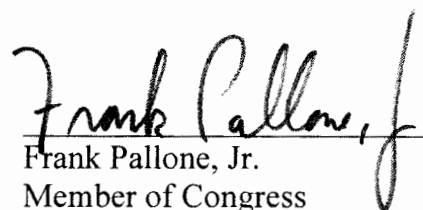
Facing adversarial neighbors, who would like to see nothing less than the demise of Nagorno-Karabakh, the nation has continued to develop. However, more work needs to be done. We must support their development which will not only lead to a flourishing democracy in the South Caucasus, but also a more stable region. With the continuation and expansion of U.S. humanitarian aid, Nagorno-Karabakh can meet the challenges of its fledgling market economy.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a country of proud citizens committed to the values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights. We, as Americans, cherish and defend these same values at home and around the world.

We encourage you to sign the attached letter to President Bush supporting humanitarian assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh. The deadline to sign onto this letter is **Friday September 29, 2006.** For more information, or to sign on, please contact Lindsay Lee in Rep. Knollenberg's office at 5-5802 (Lindsay.Lee@mail.house.gov) or Tiffany Guarascio (Tiffany.Guarascio@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Pallone's office at 5-4671.

Sincerely,


Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

September XX, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to recognize the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to call your attention to their ongoing efforts in furthering their democracy and creating an independent state.

The United States has a long history of supporting Nagorno-Karabakh's democracy and its right to live in freedom and peace. Since 1992, our government has taken part in international efforts to reach a sustainable resolution to the conflict between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. A durable cease-fire has been in place since 1994, bringing relative stability to the region. However, a comprehensive peace agreement has not been reached and the continued standoff could lead to yet another cycle of violence.

The democratically elected leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic have repeatedly offered to implement mutual confidence-building measures, for which the U.S. government has continued to allocate funding. These leaders have consistently demonstrated a willingness to make difficult compromises in the interest of a lasting peace. However, in contrast, Azerbaijan has rejected confidence-building measures and demonstrated a consistent pattern of inflexibility in the negotiating process.

To further destabilize the region, Azerbaijan continues to maintain a blockade of both Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia and regularly threatens a new wave of violence against Nagorno-Karabakh. We have every reason to believe this threat is realistic given their rapidly increasing military budget. An arms race or new violence in the South Caucasus region goes specifically against U.S. interests in the region. The key to preventing this outcome is for the United States to send a clear message to Azerbaijan that we will not tolerate renewed aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh.

Earlier this year, we were pleased with Assistant Secretary of State Dan Fried's statement that, "the will of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh has to be respected." We wholeheartedly share this view and hope that you will build upon this constructive approach to a long-term settlement. Our interest is in working, in a manner consistent with fundamental democratic principle, to bring a durable resolution, acceptable to all parties, to the region. As the world's greatest force for freedom, we should always champion values of liberty, democracy, and peace.

As we work towards peace, the United States can and must expand its engagement with the lawfully and democratically established Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. These ties should not be dictated by outside forces but rather should be guided by the shared values of our two nations. Our decision in 1988 to aid Nagorno-Karabakh has become one of the most effective assistance efforts anywhere in the world, providing thousands of people with housing, water, and healthcare needs. We should build on this success by investing in developmental and good governance programs that will strengthen Nagorno-Karabakh's economy, democratic institutions, and promote even greater cooperation on a range of regional and security issues.

Mr. President, as we mark the 15th anniversary of independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, we urge you to join with us in celebrating this nation's courageous choice for freedom, its strong commitment to democratic values, and its sincere desire to work toward lasting peace.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,