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One Hundred Twelfth Congress
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Committee on Foreign Affairs

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October 26, 2011

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20521

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are writing to express our concern regarding reports that the Department of State is preparing to sign a Framework Agreement to begin discussions with Bolivia regarding trade, assistance, and narcotics and to request that you postpone taking any action on this or related measures until Bolivia has ceased to undermine U.S. interests and has fulfilled all of its commitments under existing agreements.

As you are aware, since the election of Evo Morales in 2005, Bolivia has taken an increasingly hostile stance toward the United States. This has included an alliance with Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez in his efforts to undermine U.S. interests throughout the Hemisphere, the expulsion of our ambassador; and the termination of assistance programs by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Among Morales' most damaging actions was expelling the Drug Enforcement Administration, thereby significantly undermining our ability to interdict the flow of illicit narcotics to the U.S. and other countries. Bolivia's trade preferences under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) were suspended in 2008 due to its refusal to meet its obligation to cooperate with the U.S. to end this deadly commerce. It continues to refuse to cooperate.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose any effort to reward Bolivia with the promise of trade and assistance until it has ceased its efforts to undermine U.S. interests and it has met all of its existing commitments.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, written in a cursive style.

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Dan Burton, written in a cursive style.

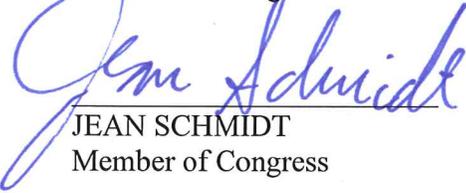
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