

July 9, 2015

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate:

We urge Congress to support the establishment of a U.S. Embassy in Cuba. As record numbers of American travelers, students, and business people visit Cuba, a full U.S. embassy will help to protect the interests and well-being of these U.S. citizens.

The establishment of embassies is not an endorsement of a foreign government. It is simply a platform from which to engage host country government officials, members of civil society and business groups.

There are also important and growing commercial concerns that an embassy can advance, including expanding legal agricultural sales and deepening the ties to newly permitted sales to the Cuban private sector. Other sectors, including information technology and telecommunication opportunities are beginning to emerge, creating markets for new America goods and services.

An embassy in Havana will serve our foreign policy interests by engaging with other diplomatic missions on the island and encouraging respect for human rights. **Establishing a U.S. Embassy in Cuba is clearly in our interests.**

We, the undersigned organizations, fully support the establishment of a U.S. Embassy, U.S Consulates, and liaison offices to serve U.S. interests in Cuba.

Supporting Organizations:

**Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Council of the Americas
USA*Engage
National Foreign Trade Council
American Society of Travel Agents
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
#CubaNow
Presbyterian Church (USA)
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
Cuban Americans for Engagement
American Civil Liberties Union
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Armenian Orthodox Church
Alliance of Baptists
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Disciples of Christ, Disciples Center for Public
Witness
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC)
Latin America Working Group**

**Orbitz Worldwide
Church World Service
Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness
National Council of Churches, USA
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness
Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of
Church and Society
United Methodist Church, General Board of Global
Ministries
Progressive National Baptist Convention
Chicago Foods International
Cuba-America Jewish Mission
Islamic Society of North America
Christian Reformed Church in North America,
Office of Social Justice
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice
Lobby
Engage Cuba
Foundation for Normalization of US/Cuba
Relations
Center for Democracy in the Americas**