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Ambassador Krishna R. Urs
Avenida La Encalada cdra. 17 s/n
Surco, Lima 33, Peru

Dear Ambassador Urs,

We write to call your attention to the serious situation faced by Indigenous Peoples in oil block 192, Peru's largest Northern Amazon oil field. Decades of oil production have led to pollution of local lands and waterways, and a new government toxicology study of block 192 found many children and elderly community members have dangerously high levels of heavy metals in their blood. Peru's environmental monitoring agency OEFA recorded over 40 spills just in the last three years since the Canadian mining company Frontera began operating the block. It has been brought to our attention that the Peruvian government announced that it expects to issue a new, 30-year license for the block to Petroperu, Peruvian state-owned petroleum company, within the next two or three months, but has not begun the prior consultation process with communities as required by law before the new license can be awarded.

We applaud the recent steps that Prime Minister Villanueva has taken to engage with Indigenous leaders from the block – meeting with them personally in Lima and agreeing to a visit to the area in August. Block 192 represents an emblematic case for the country as it was the first consultation process launched under the consultation law. Community advocates are concerned that failure to implement a participatory and gender sensitive prior consultation process for this project would set a dangerous precedent and risks creating social conflict. It is important for the Peruvian government to answer public calls to consult with Indigenous communities prior to the decision to implement oil, gas, and mining projects on their lands.

As you know, the US government invests significant resources in Peru's security and development, especially in the Amazon region. We believe with proper implementation, the Indigenous Peoples' consultation law will promote democracy and increased citizen participation in decision making, thus reducing the number of violent conflicts in the oil and mining industries.

We encourage you to take appropriate and necessary action to underscore the importance of these issues with your colleagues in the Peruvian government and recommend a meeting with Prime Minister Cesar Villanueva. We hope that the Peruvian government will take swift action

to initiate a participatory, good-faith, and gender-inclusive consultation process with communities in block 192. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



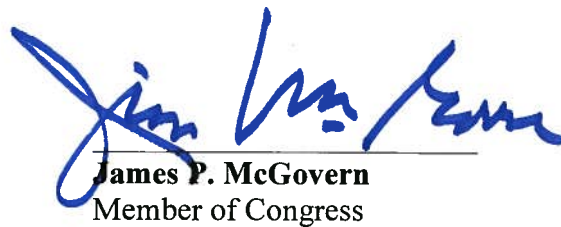
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



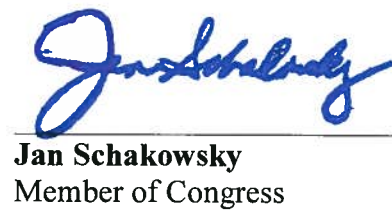
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



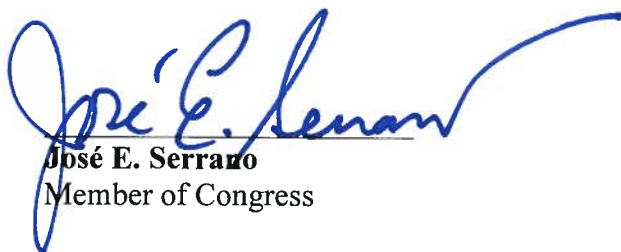
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