

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2018

His Excellency Jimmy Morales
President
Republic of Guatemala

Dear President Morales:

We write to encourage the Government of Guatemala to do more to improve Guatemala's investment climate for U.S. businesses operating in the country. We also urge you to prioritize the passage of implementation language for the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169 to better increase investment certainty for U.S. businesses, contribute to Guatemala's economic growth, create jobs for Guatemalan citizens, and protect and respect the land and safety of indigenous communities.


We further urge you to increase your support for the Public Ministry and Attorney General Thelma Aldana's cooperation with the U.N. Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and Commissioner Ivan Velazquez's efforts to combat corruption, a key hindrance to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to Guatemala. Their joint efforts this week have underscored the importance of their work, and actions taken to discredit CICIG only make it harder for Guatemala to attract investment and prove its commitment to improving transparency and rule of law, both critical components to a thriving economy.

As you know, U.S. businesses provide the largest FDI in Guatemala. In 2016, U.S. FDI stock in Guatemala amounted to \$14.6 billion, an 11 percent increase from 2015. In addition, U.S. companies provide unique value wherever they operate, they adhere to high standards of ethics and corporate responsibility, and they contribute to the communities in which they work. U.S. businesses also further Guatemala's economy and provide needed tax revenue to fund priorities in the Plan of Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle that we support.

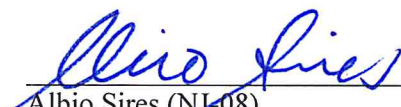
Guatemala needs greater foreign investment to meet its economic objectives, and business certainty and consistent application of the law are critical to attracting this investment. Unfortunately, inconsistent application of ILO Convention 169 and delays in Ministry approvals and Constitutional Court rulings on cases, such as in situations involving mining and hydroelectric investment projects, create uncertainty for U.S. businesses considering investing in Guatemala. We are concerned that if these situations, and the ongoing roadblocks to fighting corruption and impunity are not resolved quickly, it could lead U.S. businesses to take their investments elsewhere and result in job losses for Guatemalan citizens and even more migration to the U.S., which is not in either of our countries' interests.

Thus, we urge you to prioritize the resolution of these issues as soon as possible, and we look forward to working with you to support Guatemala's economic prosperity in the days ahead.

Sincerely,




Col. Paul Cook, Ret. (CA-08)
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



Albio Sires (NJ-08)
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



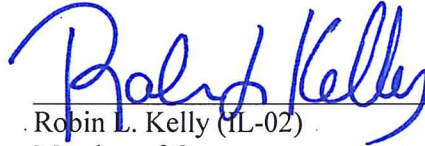
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27)
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul (TX-10)
Member of Congress



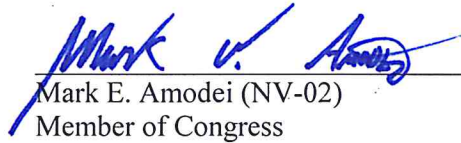
Robin L. Kelly (IL-02)
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney (FL-19)
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao (CA-21)
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei (NV-02)
Member of Congress

CC: Francisco de Mata Vela, President of the Constitutional Court