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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0920

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2353 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-1313
FAX: (202) 225-1171
- 2701 W. OAKLAND PARK BOULEVARD
SUITE 200
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33311
TELEPHONE: (954) 733-2800
FAX: (954) 735-9444
- TOWN OF MANGONIA PARK
MUNICIPAL CENTER
1755 EAST TIFFANY DRIVE
MANGONIA PARK, FL 33407
TELEPHONE: (561) 469-7048

www.alceehastings.house.gov

June 16, 2016

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai
No. 174 Xi Chang'an Jie,
Beijing 100017

Dear President Xi:

We write to express our deepest concern for the innocent dogs that are horribly mistreated during the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China and respectfully urge your government to end the dog meat trade.

An estimated ten thousand dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this festival, launched in 2010 as a commercial enterprise to boost lagging dog meat sales. Furthermore, approximately 10 million dogs are killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. Animal rights groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets taken from their homes.

Once in transport, these dogs are treated so inhumanely that many of them die on the way to the slaughterhouse after days of being denied food and water. Indeed, even those dogs that manage to survive the harrowing journey, which is often times trans-provincial, still face an almost certain and brutal death when they arrive at the festival or slaughter house. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also linked the preparation of dog meat for consumption to the human health risk of exposure to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera.

Millions in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. have signed petitions calling upon the Chinese government to end the festival, which is slated to start on June 21, 2016. Alongside these voices, the millions of Chinese citizens who also stand opposed to this festival, and the Yulin city government which has stated that it will not continue to sponsor the event, we urge you to do all that you can to stop this year's festival from occurring and prohibit this festival from taking place ever again.

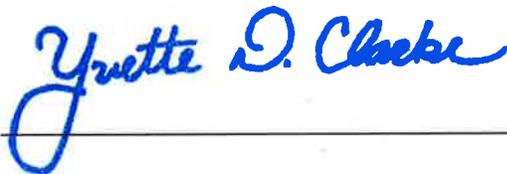
We applaud the efforts of the Yulin city government officials and the millions of Chinese citizens opposed to the festival and the dog meat trade more generally. We encourage you to use this strong support to end the festival and dog meat trade as a way to push for the implementation of strong animal cruelty laws that will ensure that these dogs, our companions, are free from further maltreatment.

It is our sincere hope that you will use your considerable influence to guarantee that the will of millions of Chinese citizens is reflected in the application of strong laws that will ensure the Dog Meat Festival and dog meat trade end as swiftly as possible.

Sincerely,



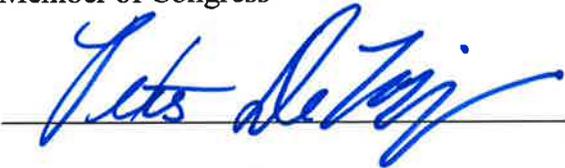
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Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



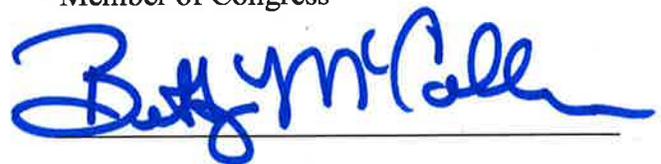
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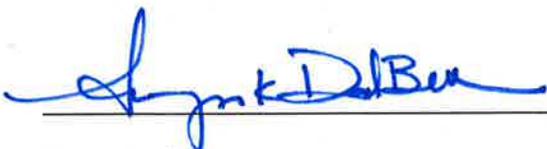
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Member of Congress



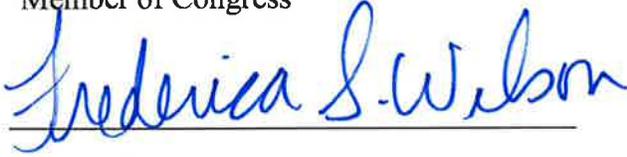
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Member of Congress



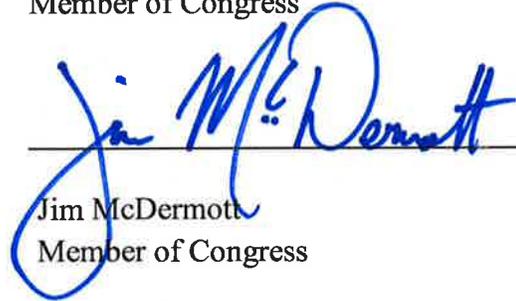
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Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Cui Tiankai, Ambassador to the United States for the People's Republic of China