April 20, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing to urge you to properly commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24th.

In leading an honest and accurate American remembrance of this known case of genocide, you will stand with President Reagan, who recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1981, and the Eisenhower Administration, which did the same in a 1951 submission to the International Court of Justice. The House of Representatives has also commemorated the Armenian Genocide, through H.J.Res.148 in 1975 and H.J.Res.247 in 1984.

Armenia remains deeply committed to expanding the bonds of friendship that have long connected the American and Armenian peoples. Among the proudest chapters in our shared history is America’s remarkable record of protesting the Genocide and in caring for the survivors of this crime. The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1915, Henry Morgenthau, helped to chronicle the brutal extermination of the Armenian people through a campaign of mass murder and violent expulsion.

In the years after the genocide, Ambassador Morgenthau and other concerned Americans launched the Near East Relief, a congressionally chartered humanitarian organization, which raised $116 million (over $2.7 billion in 2018 dollars) to aid the victims of the Ottoman Empire’s mass murder of millions of Armenians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Greeks, Syriacs, and other persecuted peoples. The generosity of the American people saved countless lives and helped to ensure the continued survival of the Armenian culture.

The Armenian Genocide continues to stand as an important reminder that crimes against humanity must not go without recognition and condemnation. Through recognition of the Armenian Genocide we pay tribute to the perseverance and determination of those who survived, as well as to the Americans of Armenian descent who continue to strengthen our country to this day. It is our duty to honor those contributions with an honest statement of history recognizing the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians as the 20th century’s first genocide. By commemorating the Armenian Genocide, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities.
In the spirit of honoring the victims and redoubling our commitment to prevent genocide, we ask you to appropriately mark April 24th as a day of American remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

DAVE TROTT
Member of Congress

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

DAVID G. VALADAIO
Member of Congress

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress

RO KHANNA
Member of Congress

ZOEL OFGREN
Member of Congress

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress

JEFF DENHAM
Member of Congress

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress

TED POE
Member of Congress

THOMAS R. SCHUZZI
Member of Congress

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI
Member of Congress

DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress
WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress

JACKY ROSEN
Member of Congress

DAVE BRAT
Member of Congress

RUBEN J. KIHUEN
Member of Congress

MIKE CAPUANO
Member of Congress

BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress

TED LIEU
Member of Congress

NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress

RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress

TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress
JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

RICHARD M. NOLAN
Member of Congress

KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress