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July 17, 2006

The Honorable Alvaro Uribe Velez
President
Republic of Colombia
Palacio De Nariño
Carrera 8, No 7-26
Bogotá, Colombia

Dear President Uribe,

We would like to express our congratulations on your recent reelection. We know that during your second term, you will continue to strive to create a peaceful and prosperous Colombia, goals we all share.

We are aware that during your recent meeting with President Bush in Washington, you requested additional funding for helicopters and other equipment to expand aerial herbicide fumigation. We think additional spending on an expanded fumigation without comparable investment in alternative development will not bring peace or prosperity to rural Colombia. There is concrete data, both from the US Office of National Drug Control Policy and the United Nations, that documents increased coca production despite significantly increased fumigation efforts. If aerial fumigation were working, fewer hectares of coca would be under production and the US street price of cocaine would have skyrocketed.

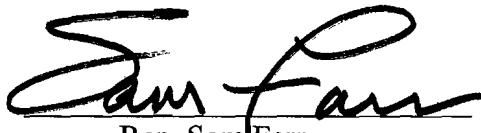
The recently released report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime estimated that coca cultivation increased by 8% last year in Colombia. This expansion occurred even though in 2005 the US funded aerial fumigation program sprayed a record number of hectares. Despite the fumigation of over 660,000 hectares and \$4 billion in US aid between 2000 and 2005, the area under cultivation today is no different than it was when Plan Colombia began. In fact, the United States' own estimates show a 6 percent increase in Colombian coca-growing from the start of Plan Colombia in 2000.

US taxpayers are footing the bill for this flawed fumigation strategy. As such, we respectfully request that you instead invest more heavily in alternative development programs in rural areas. We know that you care deeply about the plight of Colombian campesinos, but your own Comptroller's Office estimated in 2003 that 85 percent of rural Colombians live below the poverty line. We urge you to address the needs of Colombian farmers by creating the infrastructure for sustainable economic growth in rural areas and fostering an environment in which legal alternatives to coca production may thrive. Addressing the challenges of rural Colombians requires greater investment in alternative development programs, infrastructure and governance. It requires the implementation of a comprehensive rural development strategy that


harnesses the Colombian government's resources to address the underlying causes of poverty and drug cultivation.

Currently, 80% of US assistance goes towards military/police and fumigation efforts, while only 20% addresses economic assistance and strengthening the rule of law. This distribution of assistance has failed either to break the cycle of rural poverty or to remove economic incentives that favor drug cultivation. We urge you to reconsider your request to President Bush for additional fumigation planes and helicopters. We ask that you reinvigorate your government's anti-poverty campaign in rural Colombia and urge the US government to join you in addressing the underlying causes of coca production in Colombia.


Sincerely,



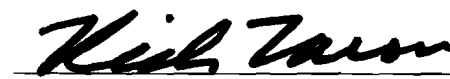
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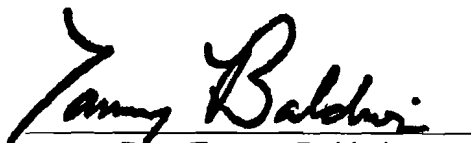
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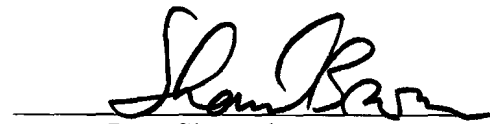
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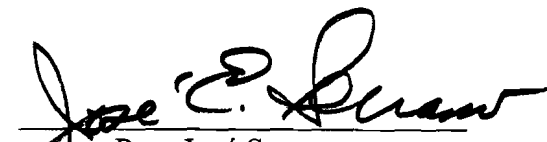
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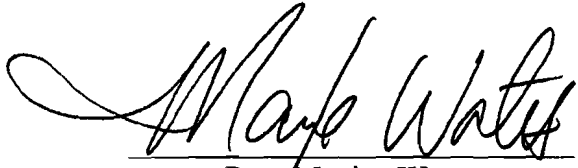
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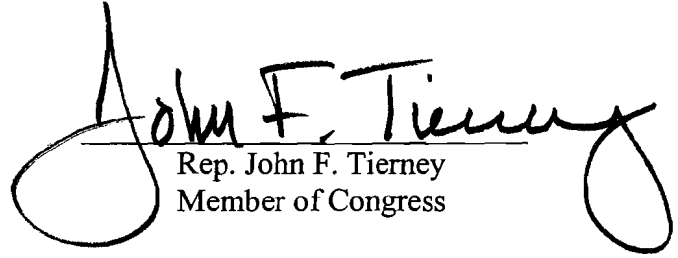
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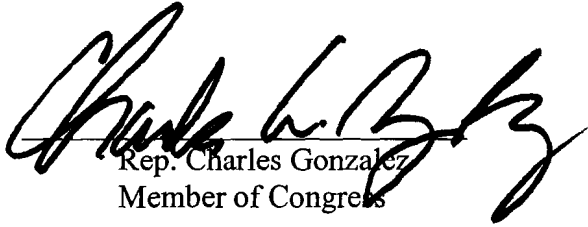
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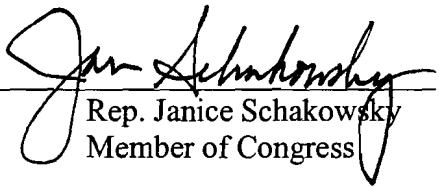
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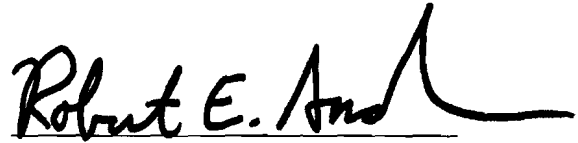
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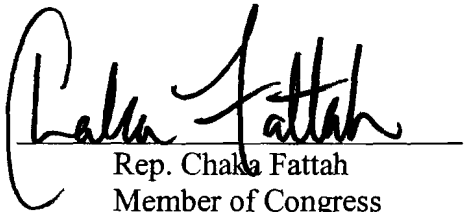
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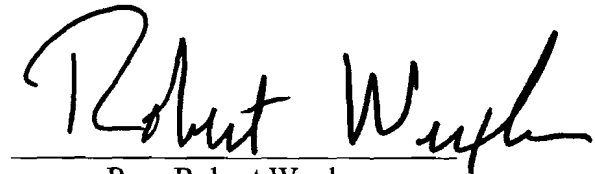
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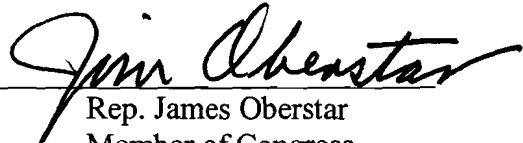
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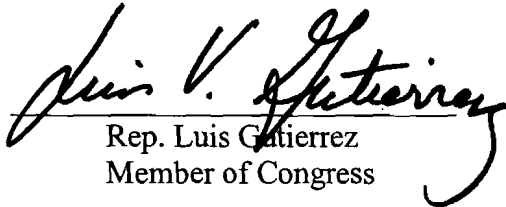
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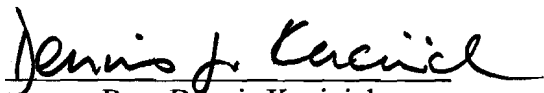
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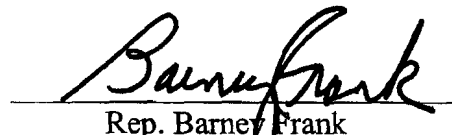
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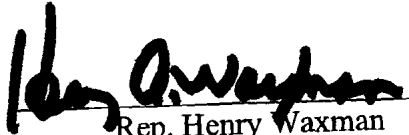
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