

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2008

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Office of the President
Malacanang Palace
JP Laurel St.
San Miguel, Manila NCR 1005
Philippines

PER FAX to Philippines Embassy: 202-467-9417

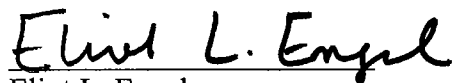
Dear President Macapagal-Arroyo,

We would like to congratulate your government for enacting the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, which went into effect on July 27, 2008. By substantially increasing the penalties on the illegal trade in dog meat, the law should protect the Philippine public from rabies transmission, and dogs from the cruelty of a black-market trade.

It is our understanding that the Philippines banned the dog-meat trade in 1998 for humanitarian reasons, but that traders continued to provide dog meat to a thriving black market. According to reports from The Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society International, the illegal trade is conducted in a manner that causes great suffering to the dogs. Traders typically steal companion dogs and round up stray dogs. Traders often force a can over the dogs' muzzles and tie their front legs behind their backs, and leave dogs in this condition for days in the blazing sun, without food or water, while they accumulate enough animals to fill their trucks. They cram the dogs into cages so tightly that they can barely breathe, and often half the dogs die en route to slaughterhouses, where the traders club the surviving dogs or cut their throats while they are conscious.

We believe that, if the Anti-Rabies Act is vigorously enforced, the increased fines will render this cruel and unhygienic trade uneconomical and eradicate it in the Philippines. To this end, we have requested our government to discuss with Philippine officials how the United States can assist in enforcing the new law, by police training or otherwise. Once again, we applaud this legislation and urge you to promote its vigorous enforcement.

Sincerely,



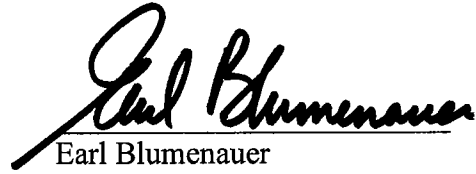
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



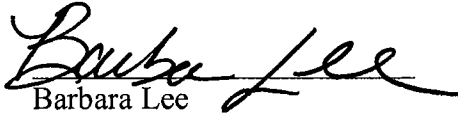
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



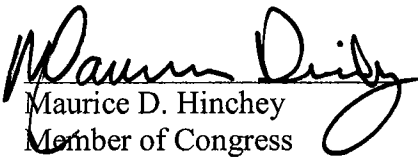
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



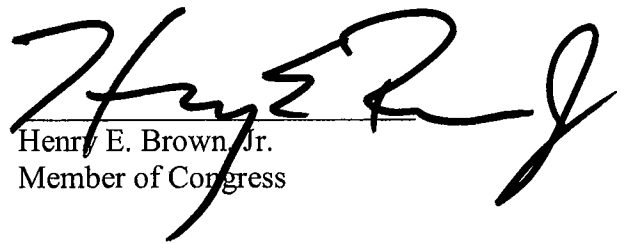
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Henry E. Brown, Jr.
Member of Congress