

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you to ask that you withdraw your nomination of Mr. George Tsunis, Esq. to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.

As a founding member of NATO, Norway is a key partner to the U.S. in the areas of trade, energy, and national security. Trade with Norway totaled \$16 billion in 2012. Norway also plays a critical role in energy development and security, serving as the world's second largest exporter of natural gas and seventh largest exporter of oil. Norway has also provided support to U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

During his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January, Mr. Tsunis exhibited an embarrassing lack of knowledge of Norway including admitting he has never visited the country, insulting part of the coalition government, and being unable to answer even a basic question about new opportunities for cooperation between our two countries. Mr. Tsunis further demonstrated this ignorance by believing that Norway, as a monarchy, has a president. His ill-informed comments deeply offended several Norwegian officials and have caused many to doubt his ability to serve as an effective ambassador.

In the wake of Russian aggression in the region, it is important that we nominate a knowledgeable U.S. Ambassador with a deep understanding of Norway's culture and political-system. It is imperative that the U.S. Ambassador to Norway be a respected individual capable of the great responsibility the position requires. The answers provided by Mr. Tsunis clearly demonstrate that he is unqualified for this position and may damage an important international bond if confirmed.

Mr. President, we believe that you would serve the Norwegian-American community well by withdrawing Mr. Tsunis's name and nominating somebody that will help our relationship continue to grow and thrive.

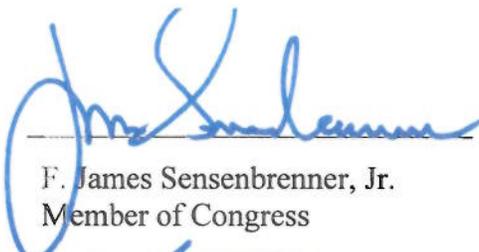
Sincerely,



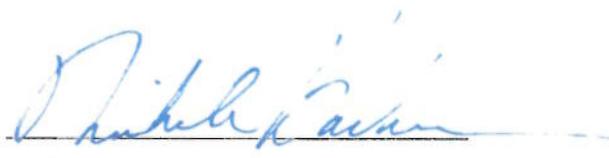
Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress



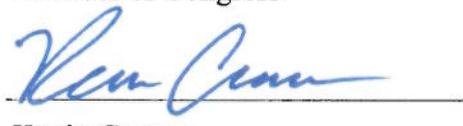
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



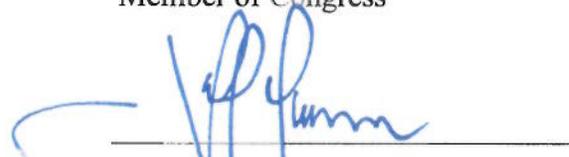
Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



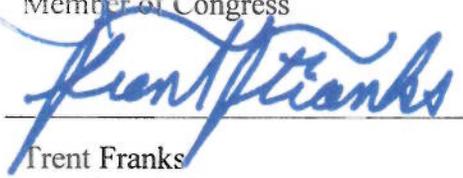
Ron Desantis  
Member of Congress



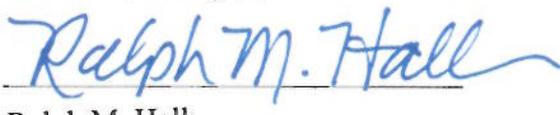
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



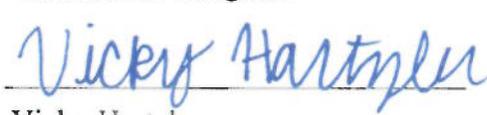
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



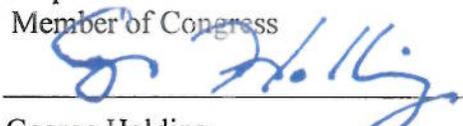
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



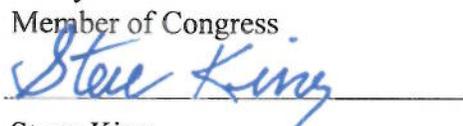
Ralph M. Hall  
Member of Congress



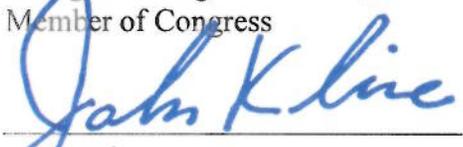
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



George Holding  
Member of Congress



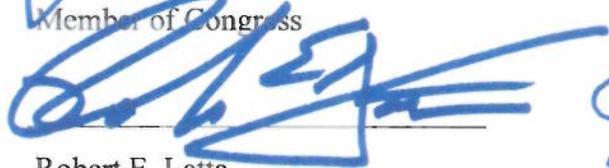
Steve King  
Member of Congress



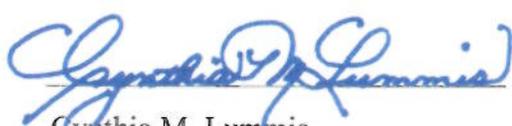
John Kline  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



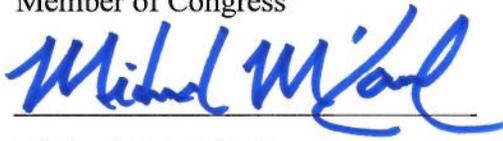
Cynthia M. Lummis  
Member of Congress



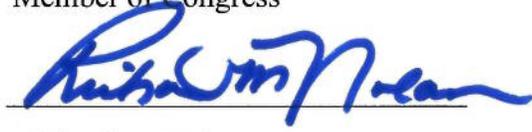
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress



Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



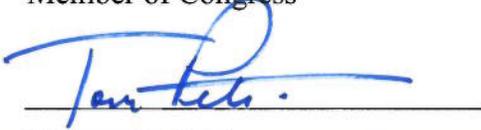
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



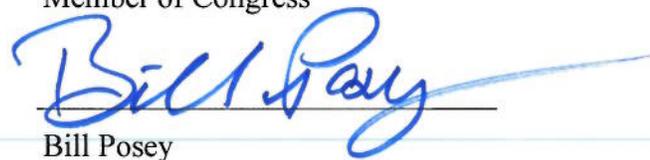
Kristi L. Noem  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



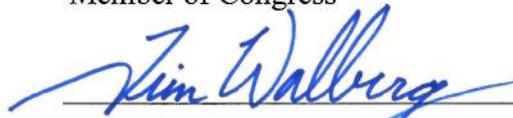
Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



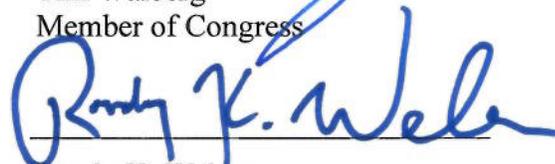
Marlin A. Stutzman  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress