

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2011

Chairman James E. Donald
Georgia State Board of Pardons & Paroles
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 458, Balcony Level, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chairman Donald:

As Members of Congress, we acknowledge the seriousness with which the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles makes decisions regarding clemency in death penalty cases. We appreciate the time spent in 2007 and 2008 by the Board to examine the case of Troy Anthony Davis.

We applauded the Board's decision to stay the execution of Troy Davis in July 2007. In the decision, you stated that the Board "will not allow an execution to proceed in this State unless and until its members are convinced that there is no doubt as to the guilt of the accused." However, a year later, on September 12, 2008, the Board denied Troy Davis's request for clemency. This fact was alarming given that doubts about Troy Davis's guilt had not been resolved.

Since 2007, there have been three stays of execution and an extraordinary evidentiary hearing conducted by the federal district court in Savannah, Georgia. While the judge presiding over that hearing ruled that Troy Davis had not established his innocence to the high standard required by the Court, he admitted that the case "may not be ironclad."

Considerable doubts as to Troy Davis' guilt remain.

Several witnesses testified at the evidentiary hearing that they had been coerced into making statements implicating Troy Davis at trial. At the hearing, one witness testified for the first time that he saw another suspect in this case commit the crime. The credibility of various witnesses was challenged by the state of Georgia, and the judge in that case agreed. Many of these same witnesses, whose credibility is now questioned, were essential to obtaining Troy Davis' original conviction.

It is clear now that the doubts plaguing Davis's case can never be adequately addressed; the lack of hard scientific or relevant physical evidence has made it impossible to resolve with any degree of certainty. Over the last four years, the inability of our courts to resolve these uncertainties has shaken public confidence in our judicial system, and an execution under such a cloud of doubt would do nothing but further undermine that confidence. Public faith in the integrity of justice in Georgia is at stake and it is for this reason that we urge you to grant clemency for Troy Davis.

The state prerogative of clemency exists for those cases that fall through the cracks, to prevent potentially grave injustices when our judicial system cannot. This is just such a case, and the power of clemency resides in your hands. Commuting Troy Davis' sentence would surely allay people's fears that Georgia would contemplate executing a potentially innocent man.

Thank you for considering our request.

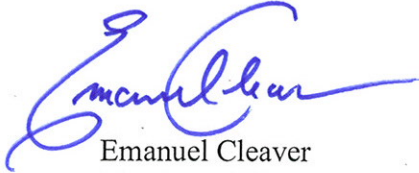
Sincerely,



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



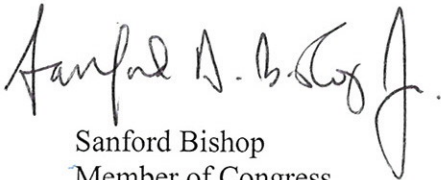
John Lewis
Member of Congress



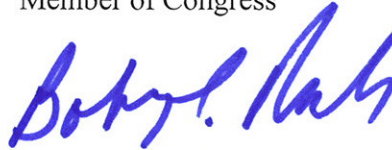
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



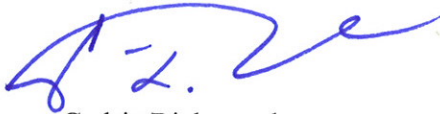
Barbra Lee
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



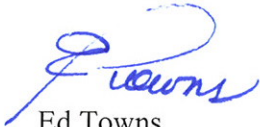
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



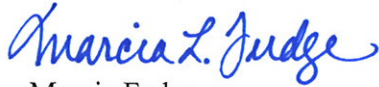
Donald Payne
Member of Congress




Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



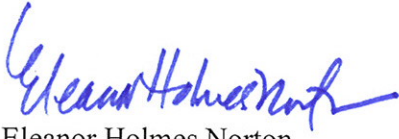
Ed Towns
Member of Congress



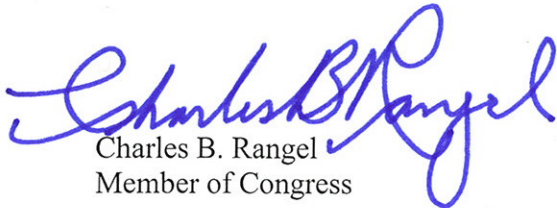
Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



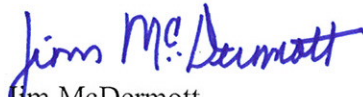
Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



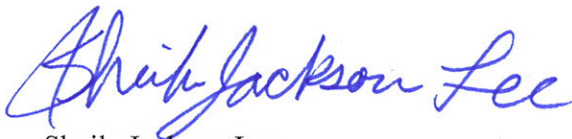
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



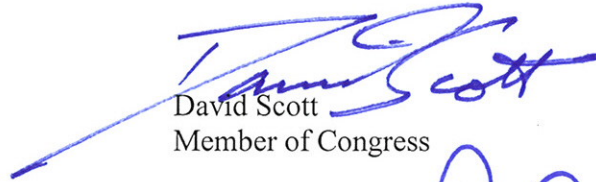
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



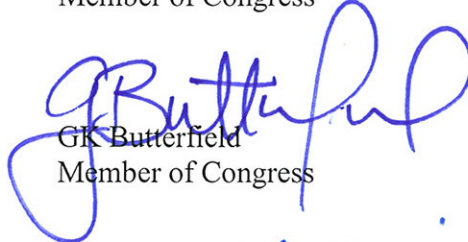
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



GK Butterfield
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



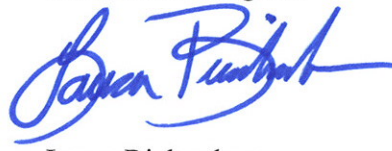
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



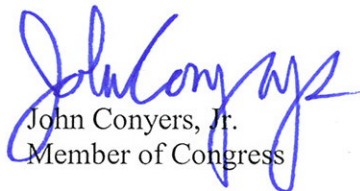
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



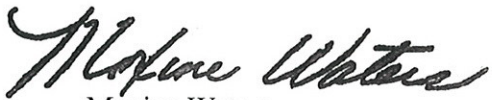
Fortney "Pete" Stark
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



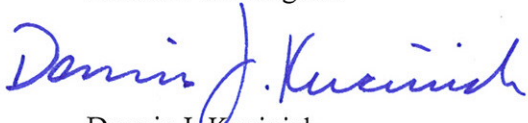
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



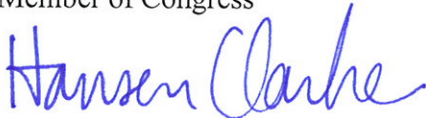
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



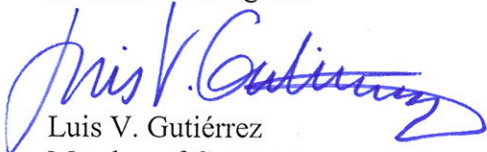
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Karen R. Bass
Member of Congress



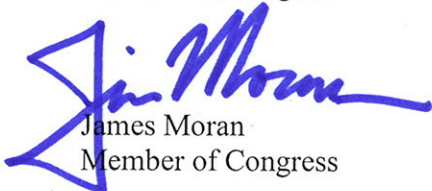
Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



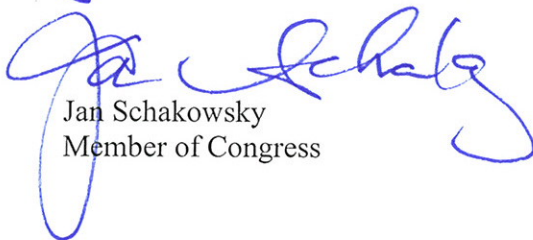
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



James Moran
Member of Congress



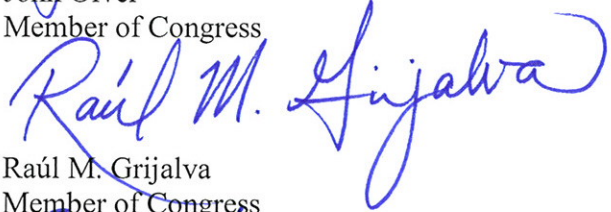
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



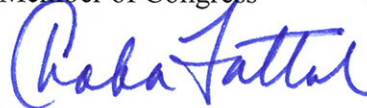
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



John Olver
Member of Congress



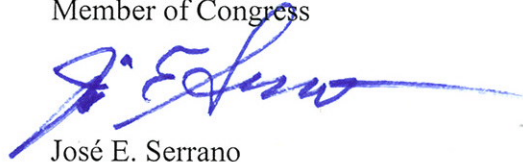
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



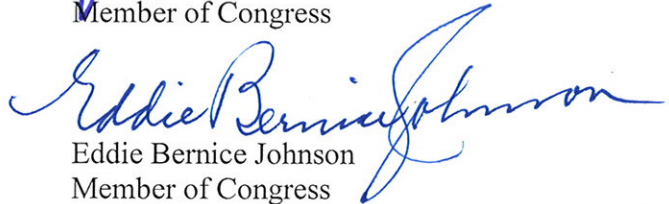
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Al Green

Al Green
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress