

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 2005

February 16, 2012

Dear President Obama,

We write to you to express our deep concern that the policies of the Turkish government pose a serious threat to the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual home of the world's second largest Christian Church of approximately 300 million Orthodox Christians.

Nearly ninety-four percent of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties have already been confiscated by the Turkish government.

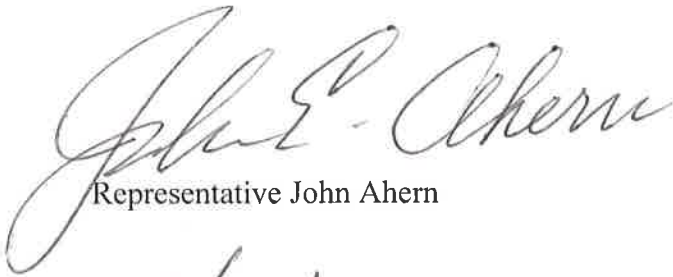
Turkish laws and policies restrict who may be elected Ecumenical Patriarch to Turkish citizens. These threaten the Ecumenical Patriarchate with extinction in the coming years. This cannot stand. Any of the nearly 300 million non-Turkish Orthodox Christians should be able to become Ecumenical Patriarch.

Millions of Orthodox Christian Americans-including those in the state of Washington-stand to lose their spiritual head, and all Christians will give up a crucial link to their history and forefathers, for it was within this 2,000 year old Sacred See that the test of the New Testament was codified, the canonical structure of the Christian Church was established and the Nicene Creed was created.

Thirty-eight (38) religious freedom resolutions and letter in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate have been adopted in thirty-two (32) legislatures in the United State, urging the Turkish government to do essentially four things:

- *Cease its discrimination of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;**
- *Grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train its clergy;**
- *Respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate's property rights; and**
- *Re-open the Halki Theological School.**

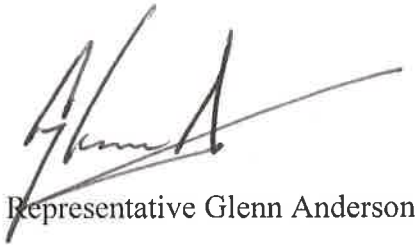
We, the undersigned support these requests and share their concern for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and respectfully request that you communicate these concerns to the leaders of the Turkish government urging them to discontinue those policies which threaten the future existence of the Patriarchate.



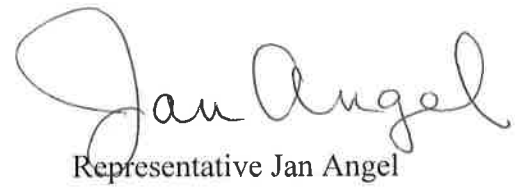
Representative John Ahern



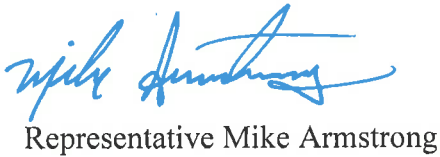
Representative Gary Alexander



Representative Glenn Anderson



Representative Jan Angel



Representative Mike Armstrong



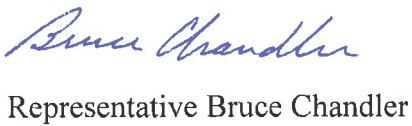
Representative Katrina Asay



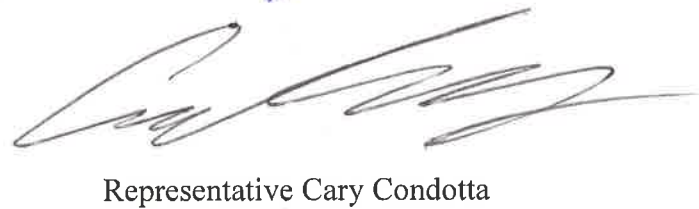
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Representative Vincent Buys



Representative Bruce Chandler



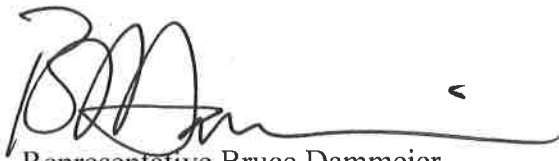
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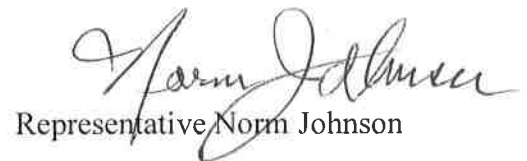
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Representative Kevin Parker



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Representative Ann Rivers



Representative Jay Rodne



Representative Charles Ross

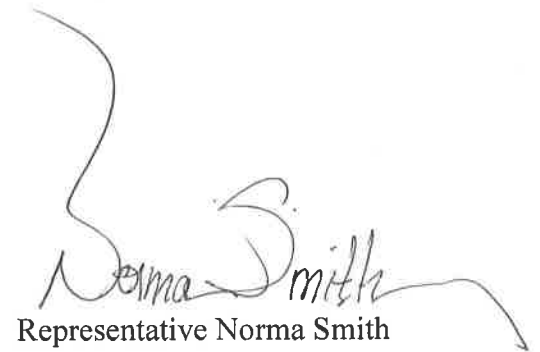


Representative Joe Schmick



Representative Matt Shea

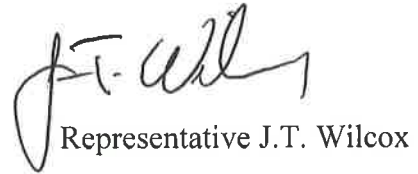

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Representative Maya Lou Dickerson District 36

Representative Kathy Hainje District 35

Representative [Signature] District 31

Representative [Signature] District 22

Representative [Signature] District 37

Representative Dean Takko District 19

Representative Springer District 45

Representative Mike Sella District 38

Representative Luigi Moscoso District 1

Representative Judy Clibborn District 41

Representative _____ District _____

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