

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 5, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20011

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The United States and Poland have a strong relationship dating back to the American Revolutionary War that continues today through our NATO partnership. Our alliance is not only based on shared interests, but also the deep affinity between our peoples, who aspire to common ideals. One of those ideals, respect for private property rights, is foundational to the success of democracies.

That is why we were heartened by your public statement in Warsaw in February calling on Poland to take appropriate steps to restitute private property belonging to Holocaust victims, their families and others from whom it was confiscated during the Communist era. Prime Minister Morawiecki's response to your comments, in which he said that Poland has "resolved" this issue, was deeply troubling. As you know, the issue has not been resolved, nor will it go away.

Now is the time, while the last Holocaust survivors are still alive, to back up our words with meaningful action. We encourage you to pursue bold initiatives to help Poland to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

Poland suffered greatly during the Second World War, and its Jewish population was singled out by the Nazis for extermination. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, approximately 3 million Jews – 90% of Poland's prewar Jewish population – were murdered by the Nazis. An estimated 1.9 million non-Jewish Polish civilians were killed by the Nazis as well. It was the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators – not Poland– that systematically confiscated Jewish property during the Second World War.

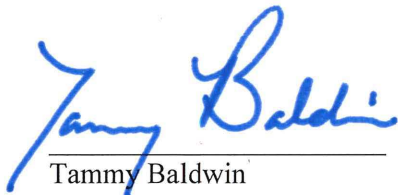
After the war, the Communist regime in Poland nationalized property owned by Jews and non-Jews. In the decades since the fall of the Iron Curtain, Jewish Holocaust survivors of Polish origin and their families as well as others have found it nearly impossible to reclaim or seek compensation for the property that was nationalized by the Polish Communist regime. In fact, Poland is the only country in the European Union that has not passed a comprehensive law for the restitution of or compensation for private property, despite in 2009, endorsing the Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets along with the United States and 45 other nations which among other things encouraged states to pass national legislation that facilitates restitution "in a fair, comprehensive and nondiscriminatory manner."

Seventy-four years after the end of the Second World War, the remaining Holocaust survivors are aging and cannot wait any longer for justice. That is why 59 US Senators wrote to the Prime Minister of Poland in March 2018 urging the passage of legislation that would meet the Terezin Declaration's standards by creating a claims process conducted "in a fair, comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner." It is also why Congress in May 2018 unanimously passed the Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act, which aims to hold countries accountable for fulfilling their promises to Holocaust survivors.

While these actions were important reminders that Americans have not forgotten about this issue, Poland has not yet fulfilled its promises to Holocaust survivors and others from whom property was confiscated and time is running out.

As staunch supporters of the US-Poland relationship, we are writing to urge you to act boldly and with urgency to help Poland resolve this issue comprehensively, and in the context of strengthening the bilateral relationship between our countries.

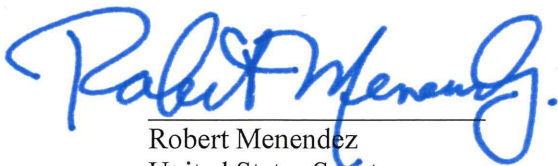
Sincerely,



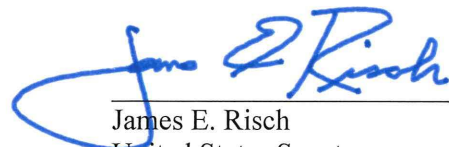
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



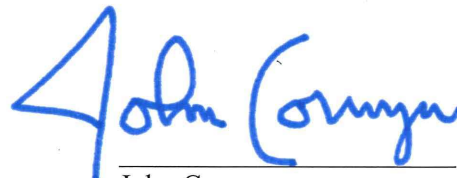
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator

Mark R Warner

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

Rob Portman

Rob Portman  
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski

Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Thom Tillis

Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

John Hoeven

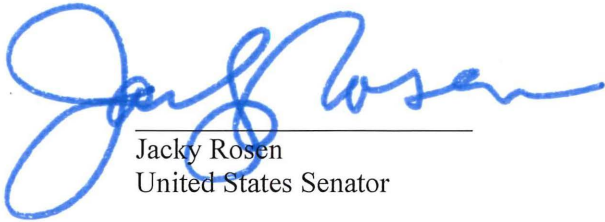
John Hoeven  
United States Senator

Jack Reed

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

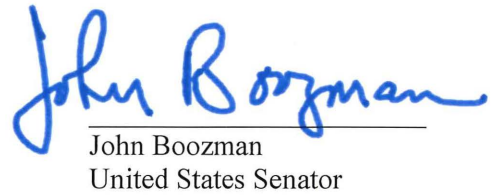
Susan M. Collins

Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



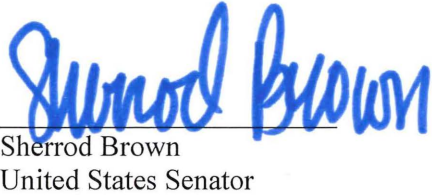
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



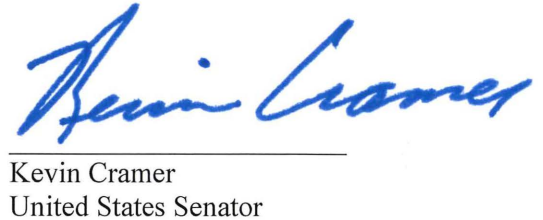
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John Boozman  
United States Senator



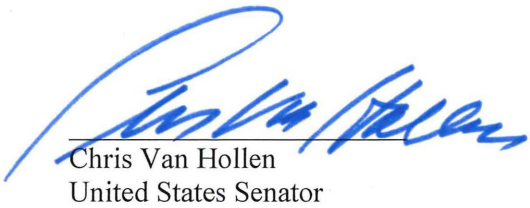
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



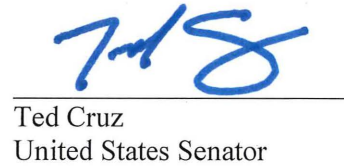
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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



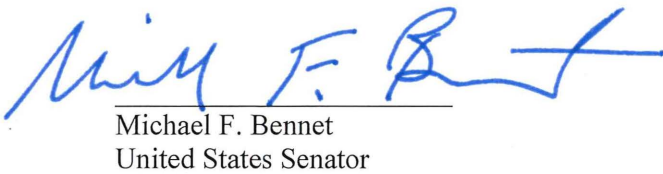
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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



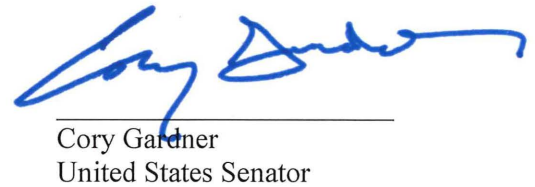
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Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



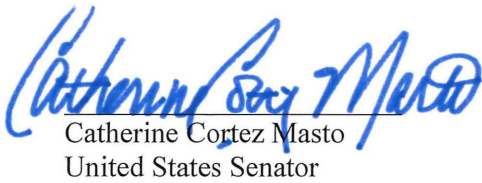
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



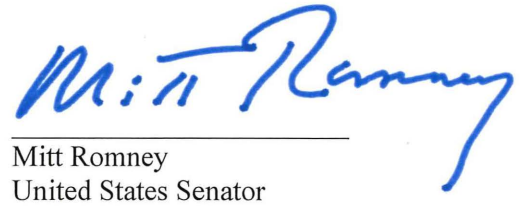
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Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



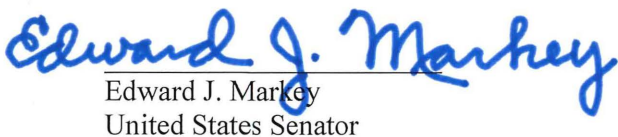
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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



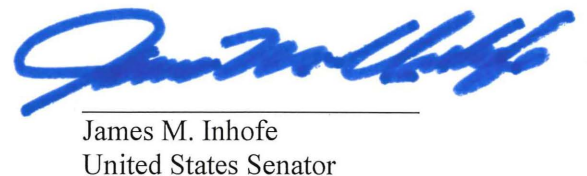
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Mike Braun  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



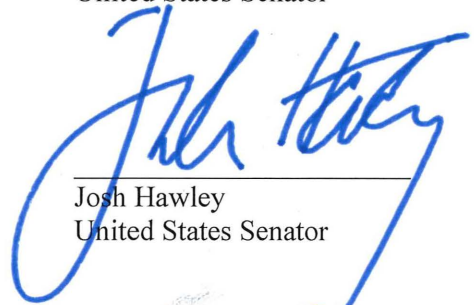
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Martha McSally  
United States Senator



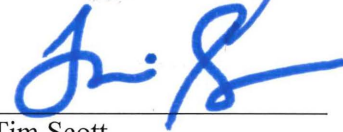
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



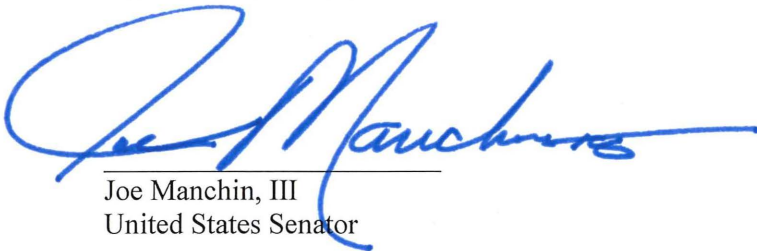
Tim Scott  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



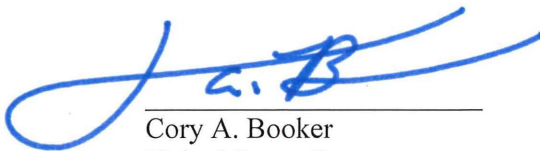
Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senator



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



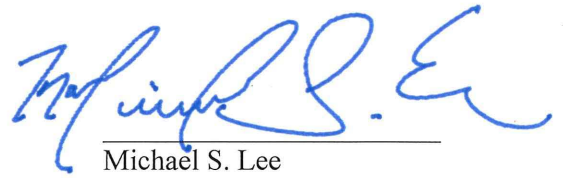
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



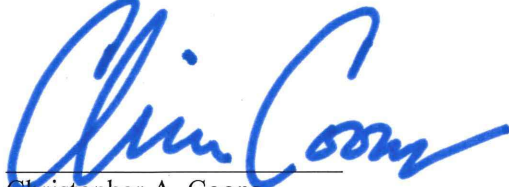
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



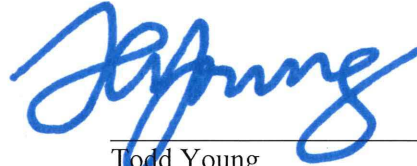
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



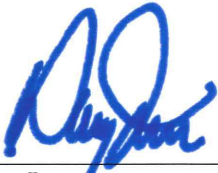
Michael S. Lee  
United States Senator



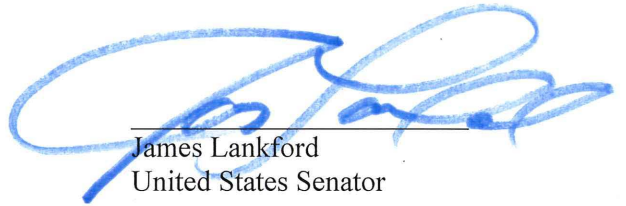
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



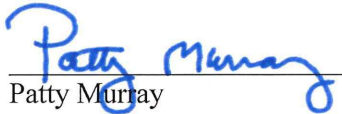
Todd Young  
United States Senator



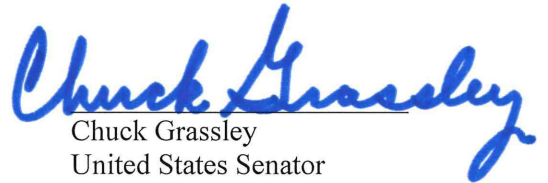
Doug Jones  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



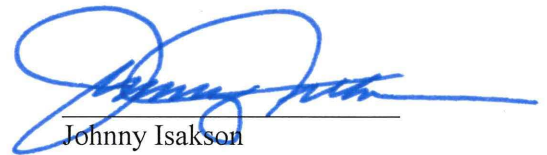
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator




Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



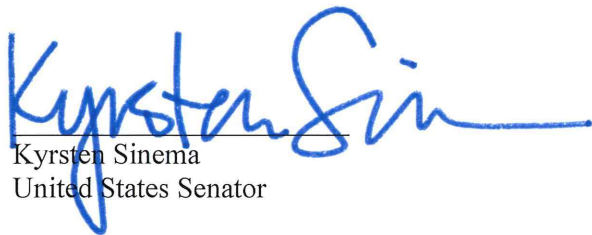
Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



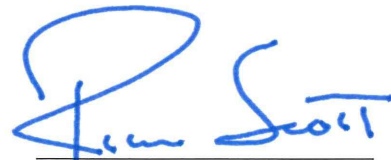
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Ben Sasse  
United States Senator



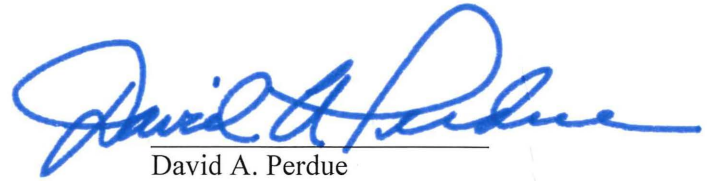
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



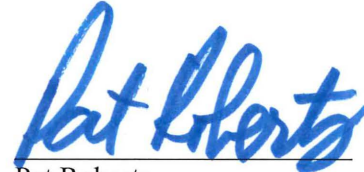
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



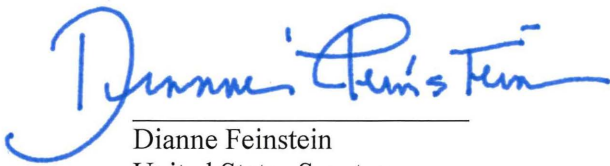
David A. Perdue  
United States Senator



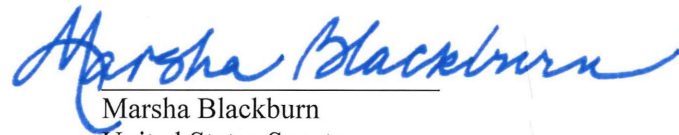
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



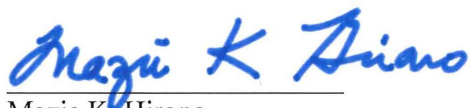
Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



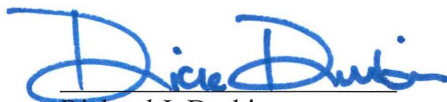
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



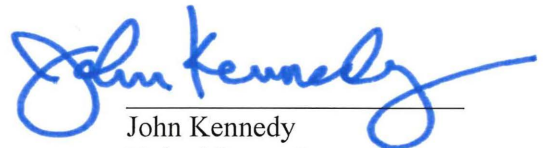
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



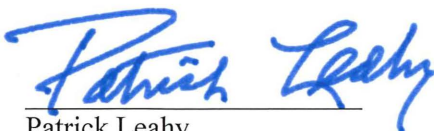
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



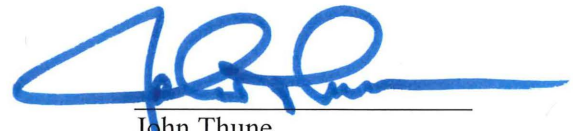
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



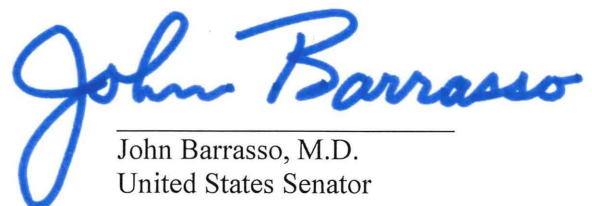
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



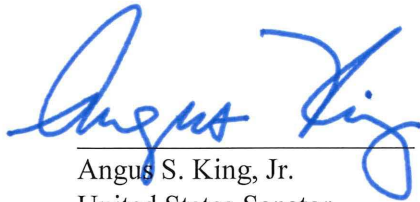
John Thune  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



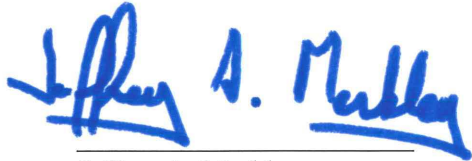
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



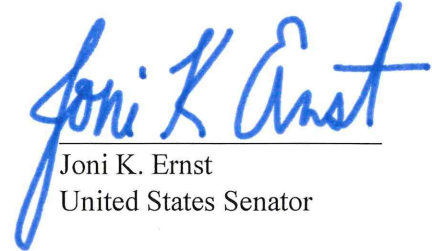
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



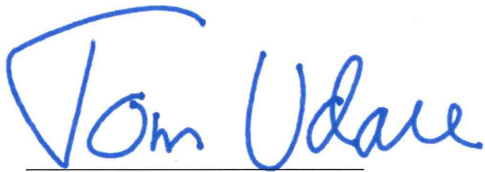
Rand Paul, M.D.  
United States Senator



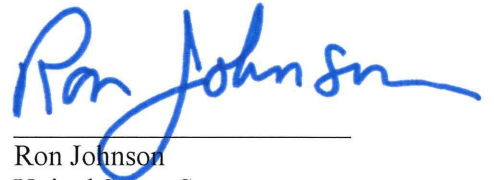
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



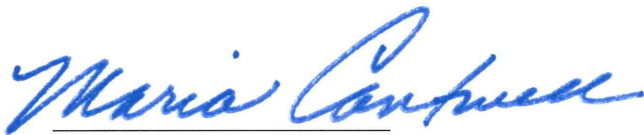
Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator




Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Ron Johnson  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

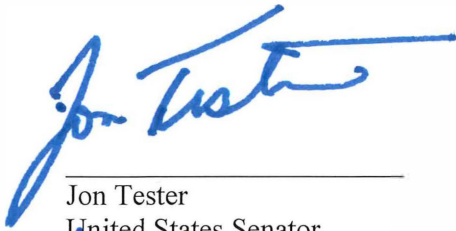


Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



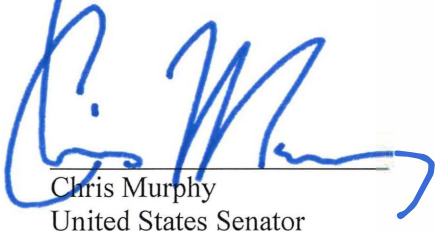
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator





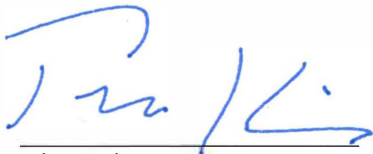
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Jon Tester  
United States Senator



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Chris Murphy  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

CC:

John R. Bolton  
National Security Advisor  
Executive Office of the President of the United  
States  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20502

The Honorable Mark Esper  
Secretary of Defense  
United States Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 22202