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September 24, 2012

Jean Picker Firstenberg
Chair
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Chair Firstenberg,

We write to respectfully request that the United States Postal Service issue a stamp honoring the holiday Diwali. As you may know, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney wrote to you in 2010 requesting a stamp in recognition of this major holiday. This year, we strongly believe that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Commission should consider issuing a Diwali stamp to honor this holiday.

Meaning "row of lights," Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, the awareness of one's inner light, the dispelling of ignorance, and bringing peace and joy through the awakening gained from this higher knowledge. This festive and important Indian holiday also marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year.

Diwali is observed in America, and across the globe, by Hindus, Sikhs, Christian, Jains, and Buddhists. As one of the world's oldest religious holidays, Diwali serves not only as a time for celebration, but also as a time for communities and families to come together in spiritual enlightenment. The practice of Diwali has survived political, economic and social changes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the victory of light, goodness, knowledge and truth.

This holiday is an important spiritual and cultural festival that merits the same recognition as other major religious holidays for which stamps are issued such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Eid. As the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee continues to review proposals for issuing new stamps, we respectfully request that you consider a Diwali stamp to honor this festival of lights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress

Gary L. Ackerman

GARY ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

Steve Israel

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks

GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano

MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress

Joe Walsh

JOE WALSH
Member of Congress

Gary C. Peters

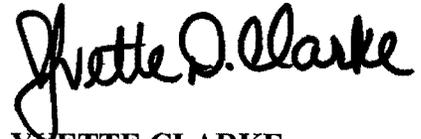
GARY C. PETERS
Member of Congress

Howard Berman

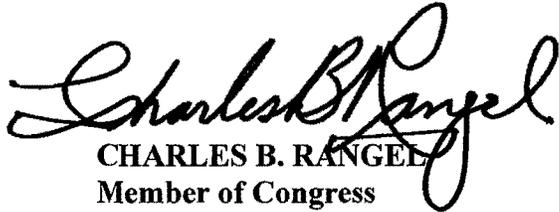
HOWARD BERMAN
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



YVETTE CLARKE
Member of Congress



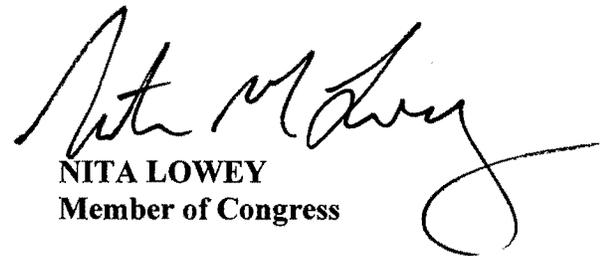
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Member of Congress



PETE STARK
Member of Congress