July 9, 2015

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate:

We urge Congress to support the establishment of a U.S. Embassy in Cuba. As record numbers of American travelers, students, and business people visit Cuba, a full U.S. embassy will help to protect the interests and well-being of these U.S. citizens.

The establishment of embassies is not an endorsement of a foreign government. It is simply a platform from which to engage host country government officials, members of civil society and business groups.

There are also important and growing commercial concerns that an embassy can advance, including expanding legal agricultural sales and deepening the ties to newly permitted sales to the Cuban private sector. Other sectors, including information technology and telecommunication opportunities are beginning to emerge, creating markets for new America goods and services.

An embassy in Havana will serve our foreign policy interests by engaging with other diplomatic missions on the island and encouraging respect for human rights. Establishing a U.S. Embassy in Cuba is clearly in our interests.

We, the undersigned organizations, fully support the establishment of a U.S. Embassy, U.S Consulates, and liaison offices to serve U.S. interests in Cuba.

Supporting Organizations:

- Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
- Council of the Americas
- USA*Engage
- National Foreign Trade Council
- American Society of Travel Agents
- Arkansas Rice Growers Association
- #CubaNow
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- Cuban Americans for Engagement
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Armenian Orthodox Church
- Alliance of Baptists
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Disciples of Christ, Disciples Center for Public Witness
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC)
- Latin America Working Group
- Orbitz Worldwide
- Church World Service
- Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness
- National Council of Churches, USA
- United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
- United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
- United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
- Chicago Foods International
- Cuba-America Jewish Mission
- Islamic Society of North America
- Christian Reformed Church in North America, Office of Social Justice
- NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- Engage Cuba
- Foundation for Normalization of US/Cuba Relations
- Center for Democracy in the Americas