

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2014

President Enrique Peña Nieto
Residencia Oficial de los Pinos
Casa Miguel Alemán, San Miguel Chapultepec C.P.
11850 México, Distrito Federal
MEXICO

Dear President Peña Nieto:

As the North American heads of state prepare for their annual summit meeting on February 19, we write to express our grave concerns regarding the Mexican government's continuing attacks on the National Union of Mine, Metal, Steel and Related Workers of the Mexican Republic – "Los Mineros" – and its President and General Secretary, Napoleón Gómez Urrutia.

February 19 marks the eighth anniversary of the explosion at the Pasta de Conchos Mine that killed 65 mineworkers and exposed the difficult and dangerous conditions that many workers in the mining industry endure. The families of these miners have sought the recovery of the miners still entombed in the mine, full accountability for those responsible, and payment of fair compensation.

Since that date, Los Mineros has faced an ongoing campaign of repression, including criminal charges against Mr. Gómez, the use of government security forces to break strikes and install company-dominated unions, and the firing of union supporters.

According to a communique issued by the International Trade Union Confederation, you advised global union leaders that you recognize Mr. Gómez's leadership, and we are encouraged that you have indicated a desire to resolve longstanding disputes. These include several legal strikes involving Grupo Mexico that have persisted since 2006, as well as more recent attacks against Los Mineros, such as the mass firing of Los Mineros supporters by a PKC subsidiary (Arneses y Accesorio de Mexico) for union activity which was carefully documented in a June 2013 Workers Rights Consortium report, and the firing of Excellon workers for supporting Los Mineros as their chosen representative at La Platosa Mine over a year ago.

Most importantly, we are concerned that your government continues to pursue criminal charges against Mr. Gómez, despite rulings from five separate Mexican appeals courts that these charges lack any credible basis.

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To that end, we ask you to provide us with an update on your government's efforts to resolving these conflicts and reinstating the union members.

Mr. President, it is the pattern of actions like these that causes many Americans to doubt the wisdom of extending free trade with Mexico through the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Economic competition must be fair: it cannot be based on the systematic violation of workers' democratic rights.

We urge you to end the persecution of Napoleón Gómez and Los Mineros, act swiftly to resolve the outstanding conflicts, and provide justice for the families of the mineworkers who died eight years ago at Pasta de Conchos.

Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



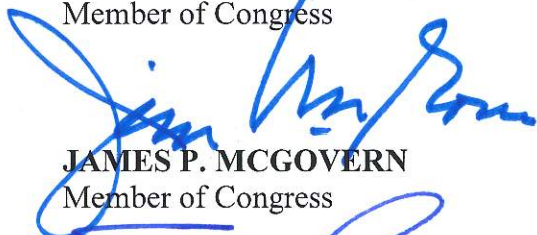
JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
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MARK POCAN
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ROSA L. DELAURO
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SAM FARR
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cc: E. Anthony Wayne, United States Ambassador to Mexico
Eduardo Tomas Medina-Mora Icaza, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States