

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are writing to follow up on your March 8 response to our February 7 letter seeking your explanation of the United States' actions at the January meeting of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), when international gay and lesbian organizations were blocked from consultative status with ECOSOC. We are extremely disappointed with the inadequacy of your response, and we seek your detailed answer to each of the following questions that were raised in our original letter but never addressed in your reply.

First, our February 7 letter addressed the United States' votes to deny not only the application of International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) but also the Danish national gay and lesbian organization, Landsforeningen for Bøsser og Lesbiske (LBL). However, your response never mentioned LBL's application, despite the fact that these are two separate organizations and there were two separate votes on each of their applications. We seek your detailed explanation regarding the United States' vote to reject LBL's application.

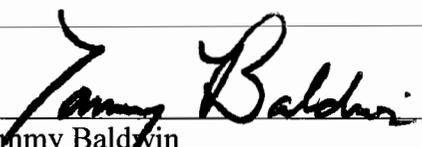
Second, your response never mentioned the fact, addressed in our original letter, that the United States voted in support of ILGA's application for consultative status in 2002. Indeed, according to a press release issued by the UN Committee on NGOs on January 23, 2002 (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2002/NGO455.doc.htm>), the representative for the United States who voted for ILGA's application was quoted as saying that he saw evidence that ILGA was saving lives in the struggle against HIV/AIDS and that he did not see any proof that the group condoned pedophilia – the central contention of your reply letter. How would the United States' view towards ILGA have changed between 2002 and 2006?

Finally, your reply ignored our request that the U.S. government publicly announce its support of the applications of three additional NGOs pending before ECOSOC: the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA—Europe), Coalition Gaie et Lesbienne du Quebec (CGLQ) from Canada, and Lesben-und Schwulverband in Deutschland (LSVD) from Germany. We stated before that it is imperative that the United States reaffirms its international human rights commitments

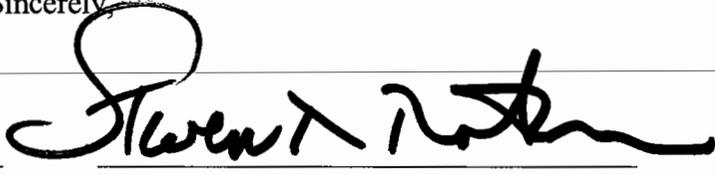
regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, and we once again seek your position on their applications.

We want to re-emphasize our belief that the United States' human rights diplomacy must encompass the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. We therefore request a detailed explanation to the above issues for a thorough understanding of the administration's decision against advocacy work on behalf of the LGBT communities within the United Nations. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



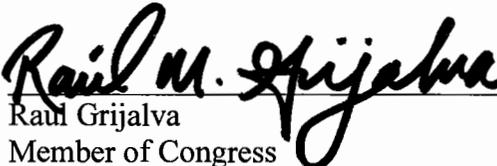
Steven Rothman
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



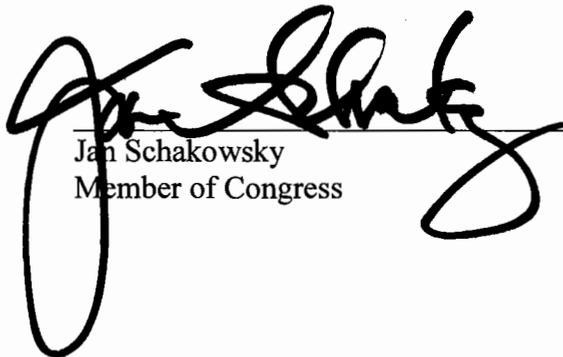
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



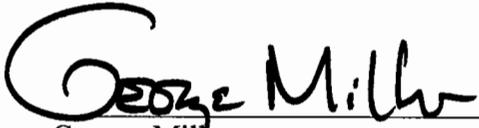
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



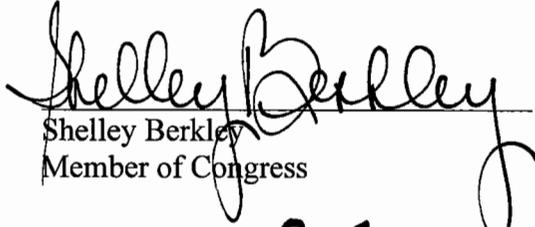
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
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George Miller
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Carolyn Maloney
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