

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 6, 2002

The Honorable Jaime Cuedra Somarriba  
President  
National Assembly  
Managua, Nicaragua

Dear President Cuedra and Members of the National Assembly:

As members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we write to demonstrate our support for your recent ground breaking legislation to suspend all private concessions involving water use until a general water resource management law can be created. We understand that all 92 members of the National Assembly supported this law to suspend the privatization of water. This is an important step toward protecting this most valuable of all resources as a public trust for future generations.

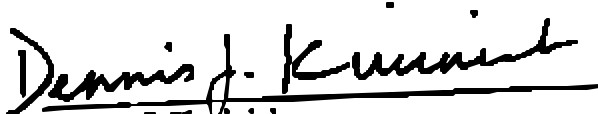
As fellow legislators, we recognize that you are tasked with representing the people of Nicaragua, who have demonstrated staunch opposition to further privatization of public services, including water. We applaud your decision to allow time for a full, public debate over water management in Nicaragua, rather than rushing to embrace privatization measures.


The vote in the Nicaraguan National Assembly earlier this year to support the suspension of water privatization sets an important precedent in all of the Americas. We hope that as you consider this issue again, your vote will not be undermined by pressures from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, or the Inter-American Development Bank. We are concerned that many loan agreements with these institutions contain conditions that require the privatization of water and hydroelectric resources. We will be looking into this issue through discussions with the U.S. executive directors to the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and International Development Bank. We send our strong support and encouragement for your courageous and firm stand behind your original vote.


Many of the same global water companies that operate in Latin America are now seeking access to new markets in the United States. As we seek to address this issue here, we express our support for your efforts in Nicaragua. We must stand together to oppose the transfer of water to private hands against the will of the citizens we represent. It is our public duty.

We are encouraged by your example, and wish you success.

Sincerely,


  
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress


  
John Conyers  
Member of Congress

  
Cynthia McKinney  
Member of Congress


  
Lane Evans  
Member of Congress


  
Harold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress

  
Marika Hinchey  
Member of Congress

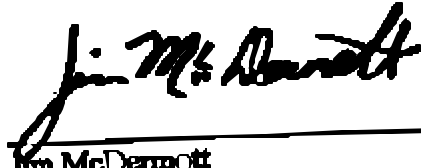
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress


  
Donald Payne  
Member of Congress



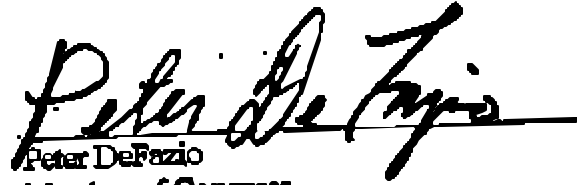
Bernard Sanders  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Bob Filner  
Member of Congress