

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Meera Shankar
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of India
2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Shankar:

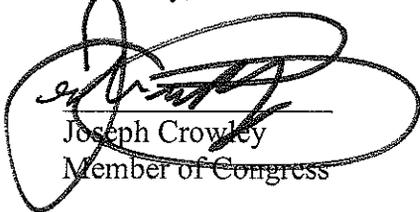
We offer our congratulations to you and your country for conducting your recent elections. We look forward to working with you as the representative of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual society that shares the democratic values of the United States and is the world's largest democracy.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan U.S. Government commission that provides valuable policy recommendations to the President, Congress and Secretary of State. USCIRF is seeking to travel to India from June 14 through June 28 to gather first-hand information on the conditions of religious freedom and related human rights. We have learned that the Commission recently was denied visas for this trip and was not given alternative dates for such the USCIRF delegation to travel to India.

Given the deepening relationship between India and the United States, we hope that the Indian Government will allow USCIRF to visit in June so that the Commission will have the benefit of meeting with Indian officials, NGOs, and other relevant actors as it prepares its final report and recommendations on India.

We appreciate any assistance you can offer to help facilitate USCIRF's request for travel.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



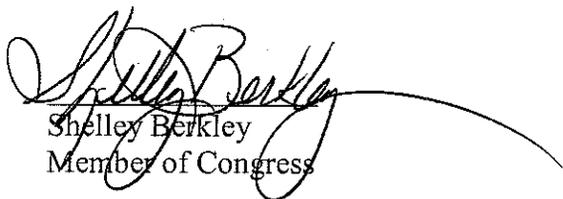
Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



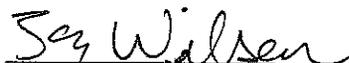
Michael E. McMahon
Member of Congress



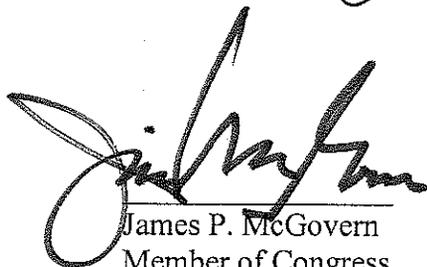
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



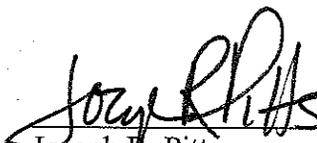
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress



Bob Inglis
Member of Congress



Joseph K. Pitts
Member of Congress



Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress