



Albany, New York
July 23, 2020

The New York Congressional Delegation:

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
Hon. Charles Schumer

Hon. Anthony Brindisi
Hon. Yvette Clarke
Hon. Antonio Delgado
Hon. Eliot Engel
Hon. Adriano Espaillat
Hon. Brian Higgins
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries

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Hon. Carolyn Maloney
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Hon. Grace Meng
Hon. Joseph Morelle
Hon. Jerrold Nadler

Hon. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Hon. Tom Reed
Hon. Kathleen Rice
Hon. Max Rose
Hon. José Serrano
Hon. Elise Stefanik
Hon. Thomas Suozzi
Hon. Paul Tonko
Hon. Nydia Velázquez
Hon. Lee Zeldin

Dear Colleagues:

We are profoundly disquieted by the actions of federal agents operating on the streets of Portland, Oregon. Their presence is in direct contravention of the declarations of both the mayor of Portland and the governor of Oregon, as well as both Oregon United States Senators, all of whom have demanded that the federal agents be removed. It is clear to us, the undersigned members of the New York Legislature, that the presence and actions of the federal agents in Portland, who operate without any identification or accountability, detaining citizens without warning or reason and violently attacking peaceful protesters, is an abuse of power and patently illegal. These activities smack of dictatorship and are wholly at odds with the U.S. Constitution. If allowed to continue unabated and without correction, we fear we will see such lawless federal forces on the streets of Buffalo, Albany or New York City.

While we join in the call by Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representatives Blumenauer and Bonamici for investigations into the presence and actions of unmarked federal agents in Portland, Oregon, we have little faith that either the Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security offices of Inspector General will conduct such investigations. Rather, we urgently call on you, as our state's representatives in Congress, to take immediate action to curb this federal lawlessness in Portland and prevent it from being replicated in any other location. The Customs and Border Patrol and the Department of Homeland Security must be required to respect the law and prohibited from operating as an unrestrained and violent federal police force within our country's boundaries and in our cities.

We stand ready to assist you in protecting our right to protest, the accountability and transparency of our government, and our democracy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Brian A. Benjamin



Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz



Senator Jamaal T. Bailey



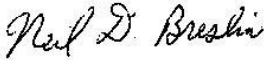
Senator Alessandra Biaggi



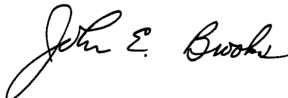
Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo



Assemblyman Charles Barron




Senator Neil D. Breslin



Senator John E. Brooks



Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte



Assemblyman Michael Blake



Senator David Carlucci



Senator James F. Gaughran



Assemblyman Patrick Burke



Assemblyman Robert C. Carroll



Senator Michael Gianaris



Senator Andrew Gournardes



Assemblywoman Martiza Davila



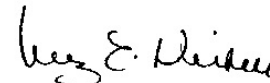
Assemblywoman Carmen N. De La Rosa



Senator Pete Harckham



Senator Brad Hoylman



Assemblywoman Inez E. Dickens



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz



Senator Robert Jackson



Senator Todd Kaminsky



Assemblyman Harvey Epstein



Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez



Senator Anna M. Kaplan



Senator Brian Kavanagh



Assemblywoman Mathyde Frontus



Assemblywoman Deborah J. Glick



Senator Timothy M. Kennedy



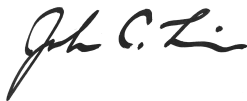
Senator Liz Krueger



Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried



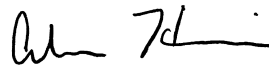
Assemblywoman Judy Griffin



Senator John C. Liu



Senator Rachel May



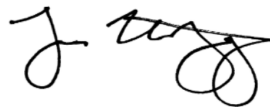
Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi



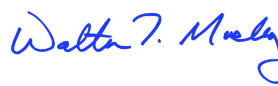
Assemblyman Charles D. Lavine



Senator Shelley B. Mayer



Senator Jen Metzger



Assemblyman Robert T. Mosley



Assemblyman Félix W. Ortiz



Senator Velmanette Montgomery



Senator Zellnor Myrie



Assemblyman Steven Otis



Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud



Senator Jessica Ramos



Assemblyman N. Nick Perry



Assemblyman Dan Quart



Senator Gustavo
Rivera



Senator Julia Salazar




Assemblyman Philip
Ramos



Assemblywoman
Karines Reyes



Senator James
Sanders



Senator Luis
Sepulveda



Assemblywoman
Diana C. Richardson



Assemblyman José
Rivera



Senator José
Serrano



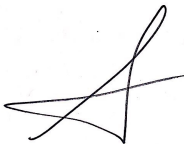
Senator Toby Ann
Stavisky



Assemblyman Robert
J. Rodriguez



Assemblyman Daniel
Rosenthal



Senator Kevin
Thomas



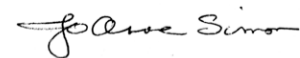
Assemblywoman
Linda B. Rosenthal



Assemblywoman Nily
Rozic



Assemblywoman
Rebecca A. Seawright



Assemblywoman Jo
Anne Simon



Assemblywoman
Aravella Simotas