

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to express our concern regarding the application of the so-called “Trump Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine. As Members of Congress, we are asked to accept that this doctrine now governs U.S. policy toward every nation in the Western Hemisphere — yet we still lack the basic information needed to understand what it means in practice, what authorities it assumes, and what human costs this new posture has already claimed in communities across the Americas.

The strategy pledges to “assert and enforce” U.S. primacy across the region. In practice, however, the “Trump Corollary” operates not as a security doctrine but as a license for unlimited foreign intervention. Even with the limited information provided to Members of Congress, we can see the “Trump Corollary” operating through three mutually reinforcing instruments: military force without congressional authorization, economic coercion without regard for human suffering, and political intervention to reward allies of the Trump Administration and punish its opponents.

Lethal force without Congressional authorization or oversight. Since September 2025, the U.S. military has carried out over five dozen lethal boat strikes, killing well over 200 people with no due process. Legal experts and senior U.N. officials consider these extrajudicial killings, and they have had no measurable effect on the flow of narcotics. Joint operations with partner militaries — including the operation conducted with Ecuadorian forces in San Martín in early March — have resulted directly in the bombing, detention, and torture of civilians, and risk making partner governments complicit in unlawful operations and liable under international law. The same logic has extended to the kidnapping of Venezuela’s head of state and the reactivation of military bases in Puerto Rico without the consent of the people who live there. Congress has authorized none of it, and only received limited classified briefings.

Economic coercion as a form of collective punishment. In January, the President declared a national emergency premised on the claim that Cuba poses an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to U.S. national security, imposing what amounts to a full blockade on fuel shipments to the island and tightening a decades-old embargo the United Nations has repeatedly deemed unlawful. Elsewhere, sanctions and tariffs have been used to shield a political ally from prosecution and to pressure an electorate before it votes, and the U.S. Treasury now collects and

directs another country's export revenue outright. Authorities Congress created to protect national security are being subverted to punish civilian populations and to extract political outcomes.

Interference in the democratic life of sovereign nations. Across the hemisphere, the administration has openly intervened in sovereign electoral processes. In Honduras, the Trump Administration endorsed favored candidates, pardoned former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, a convicted narco trafficker, on the eve of Honduran elections, and warned of “hell to pay” if a count did not go the President’s preferred way. In Colombia, it backed a candidate with documented ties to a paramilitary organization responsible for massacres and grave human rights abuses, while U.S. immigration authorities detained and deported one of their prominent critics. The President’s recent warnings against foreign election meddling in the United States ring hollow alongside a doctrine designed to tip the electoral scales toward his preferred candidates abroad — a power no statute grants, no appropriation funds, and no Congress has authorized.

Taken together, the interventions conducted under the banner of the “Donroe” Doctrine appear to follow a partisan playbook: the endorsement of favored candidates, the placement of political allies, the weaponization of tariffs and sanctions, and, where those fail, the application of direct military force. These are tactics that destabilize our hemisphere and endanger our neighbors.

Two centuries of the Monroe Doctrine have left enduring wounds across this hemisphere: families still searching for the disappeared, communities still seeking justice for crimes committed in our name, entire countries still seeking answers about our role in one of the darkest chapters of their history.

We urge you to chart a different path forward. Our U.S. policy and engagements with counterparts across the hemisphere should show that we have learned from our past and seek to engage our partners in a different way. At the core, our foreign policy must be grounded on respect for sovereignty, respect for international law and our own domestic laws, and a commitment to cooperation and multilateral engagement instead of coercion and unitary executive action.

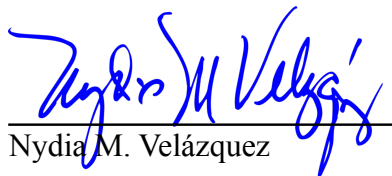
Sincerely,



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



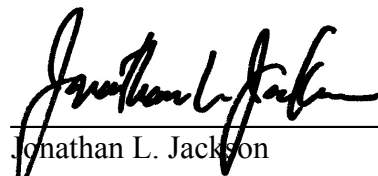
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



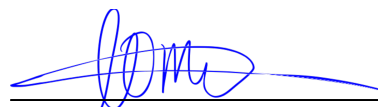
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



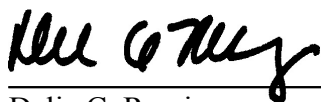
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
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Ilhan Omar
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Delia C. Ramirez
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