

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

October 19, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at the behest of the Castro regime in Cuba, will likely vote next month on a resolution demanding an end to the United States embargo against Cuba. As you know, the embargo is codified under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), which is also known as the Helms-Burton LIBERTAD Act. I respectfully urge you to direct the United States to vote against any U.N. General Assembly resolution demanding a change to this U.S. law.

While I recognize the U.N. General Assembly's vote would be only symbolic, it would send the wrong message to human rights defenders and pro-democracy dissidents in Cuba. Over the years, far too many Cubans who have sought to promote self-government, the impartial rule of law, and adherence to universal values on the island have suffered imprisonment, violence, torture, and other human rights violations under the Castro regime. Some have even lost their lives.

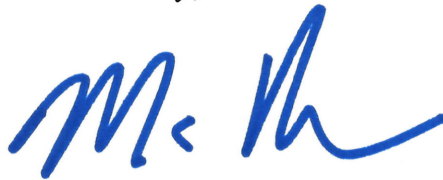
President Barack Obama unilaterally changed U.S.-Cuba policy, providing many concessions to the Castro regime while failing the island's many human rights defenders and pro-democracy dissidents who continue to suffer under this repressive regime. In June of this year, you announced a new U.S. policy toward Cuba that seeks to advance U.S. national security interests and protect human rights and universal values, strengthen compliance with the LIBERTAD Act and related laws, and empower the Cuban people to develop greater economic independence and ultimately political liberty.

It is my hope that America's new policy toward Cuba will help to bring closer the day when the Cuban people have the opportunity to elect their own leaders and live under a government that truly represents them and respects their God-given, inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In furtherance of

America's new policy, I urge you to consider my request and to direct the United States to vote against any U.N. General Assembly resolution that calls for an end to the United States' embargo against Cuba.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

CC:

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

Ambassador Nikki Haley, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations