

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2020

The Right Honourable Boris Johnson, MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
Westminster, London
SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

We send you our admiration and very best wishes from the United States House of Representatives. We write respectfully to urge your support for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece.

The Elgin Marbles from the Acropolis of Athens, Greece, have been loved and appreciated in their adoptive home in the British Museum for more than two hundred years. Many people have been inspired and edified over these two centuries by the transcendent sculptures by Phidias that comprise these Marbles. Many observers have called the Parthenon the high-water mark of world architecture, and the statues and reliefs of that temple to Athena certainly constitute the paramount point of classical sculpture.

There are other marbles in the British Museum's collection from the other buildings of the Acropolis and Parthenon, but most of the Museum's collection was taken directly from the site by British Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Lord Elgin, between 1801 and 1804. The specific marbles in the British Museum's collection taken by Lord Elgin comprise the Parthenon Marbles, as well as smaller numbers of pieces from three other buildings on the Acropolis that were built contemporaneously with the Parthenon.

The Marbles have been the source of controversy among western allies for many decades. Greece has long wanted these Parthenon Marbles back. Today we write to you as members of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues to urge your government to negotiate with the Greek government in earnest on the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece.

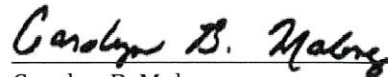
In taking the initiative to return the sculptures, you would affirm your admiration and respect for the immense legacy of ancient Greece, promote the importance and understanding of history and western values of classical art, and further strengthen Britain's already salutary ties with the Hellenic Republic and the Greek people.

We remain appreciative of your efforts and good will in support of the historic special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States and look forward to strengthening that relationship through the accomplishment of matters such as this. We stand ready to answer any questions and offer our undoubted assistance and support in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



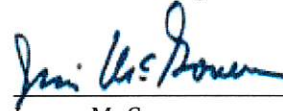
John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



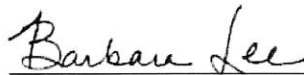
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



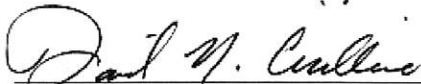
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress




David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



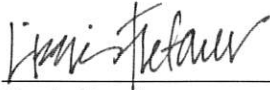
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



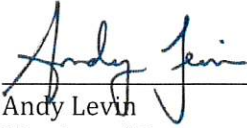
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



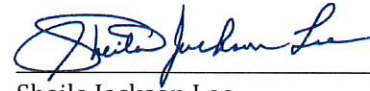
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Peter Visclosky
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress