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**One Hundred Fourteenth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

March 8, 2016

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing to express my support for increased diplomatic engagement with Sri Lanka in the wake of the country's election last year and peaceful transfer of power. Continued high level visits, such as your visit in May of last year, demonstrate U.S. commitment to Sri Lanka and recognition of its strategic location in the region. Looking ahead, I believe that it is time for the Administration to clearly outline a strategy to support Sri Lanka as it works to make critical reforms.

The Sri Lankan government, led by President Maithripala Sirisena, has promised to undertake constitutional and security sector reforms and move forward with accountability and reconciliation efforts aimed at healing ethnic and religious divisions stemming from Sri Lanka's decades-long civil conflict. Having returned 1,300 hectares of land in the Northern and Eastern provinces, co-sponsored a strong resolution on human rights in Sri Lanka at the United Nations Human Rights Council, and demonstrated a commitment to reconcile with the Tamil population, the Sri Lankan government continues to make impressive, positive steps.

Renewed U.S. diplomatic engagement should continue to support these efforts. To that end, I urge you to continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to take immediate steps to release political prisoners, repeal the war-time "Prevention of Terrorism Act," and return land seized during the conflict. These actions, which the government has already committed to take, would

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I ask you to clearly outline the steps that the U.S. government will take to support reform, including efforts to implement recommendations from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and ensure that development and security assistance are in line with reform efforts.

Mr. Secretary, I believe it is important that the U.S. carry out a clearly-articulated policy to support reform in Sri Lanka. I look forward to discussing how Congress can support these important efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Royce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

EDWARD R. ROYCE

Chairman

