

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Ambassador Michael Froman
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Lew and Ambassador Froman,

The *New York Times* recently reported that \$81 million was transferred out of an official Bangladesh account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to the Philippines. According to that article, testimony in a Philippines Senate panel hearing suggested that most of the money from the Bangladesh account was delivered to three casino operators. Unfortunately, since the Philippines does not have an anti-money laundering law that covers the gaming industry, the funds can no longer be traced once they reached the casinos.

It is unlikely that the inclusion of casinos under the Philippines' AML/CFT regime will occur without sustained pressure from the international community. We write to insist that Philippines' casinos meet the Financial Action Task Force's Anti-Money Laundering compliance standards before being allowed to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

The key to combatting money laundering is to ensure that governments can effectively follow the money trail to track and stop the flow of illicit funds. However, loopholes like those found in the Philippines anti-money laundering law make it challenging to effectively track the movement of funds. According to the U.S State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), there have been efforts to legally include casinos under the Philippines Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime, but "progress has been slow," and there is "extensive lobbying from the casino industry."

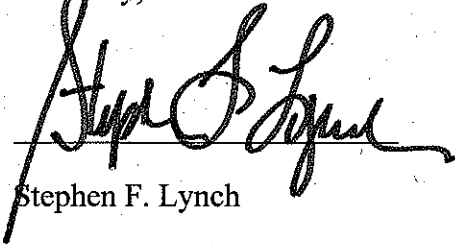
At a time of increased trade and globalization, we must be even more diligent with enforcing international standards for anti-money laundering. Thus, we respectively ask that the Philippines

should not be included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement unless their anti-money laundering law is amended to include the gaming industry.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to work with members of Congress to safeguard our global financial system.

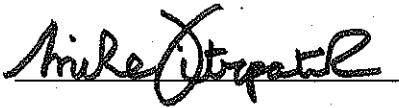
We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



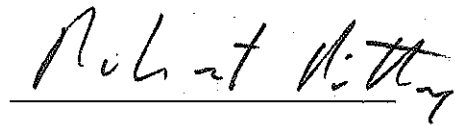
Stephen F. Lynch

Member of Congress



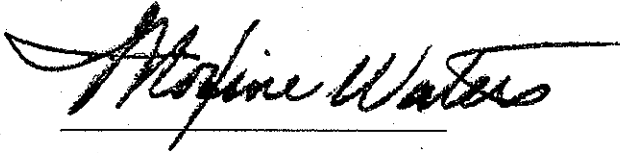
Mike Fitzpatrick

Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger

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Maxine Waters

Member of Congress



Keith Ellison

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Michael E. Capuano

Michael Capuano

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Tom Emmer

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