Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2000

The President
William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Mr. President:

You have a historic opportunity to advance the international rule of law by signing the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (ICC) before it closes for signature on December 31, 2000. As Members of Congress, we urge you to do so.

Signing the Rome Statute for the ICC would be a reaffirmation to our allies such as the United Kingdom and Canada, who have already signed this treaty, of the United States' commitment to equal justice under the law and the Nuremberg principles. In addition, the U.S. would send a message to victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity that we will not allow the world to stand idly by while perpetrators of these horrendous crimes continue to act with impunity.

Creation of a permanent ICC would eliminate any further need for ad hoc tribunals, such as those in Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and create a permanent mechanism to hold perpetrators of atrocities accountable. It would also give greater protection to American service members involved in peacekeeping operations and international military initiatives.

Your signature would lend legitimacy to the ICC statute and reassure Americans that the safeguards built into the treaty reflect American judicial values and uphold the rights enshrined in our Constitution. Although the ICC treaty is not, as your Administration has expressed, an absolutely perfect instrument, we believe its positives overwhelmingly outweigh its negatives.
Most importantly, your signature would give members of Congress a solid ground to push for the ratification of the Rome Statute and guarantee your legacy as a proponent of international rule of law.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress

Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress

Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress

Jerald Nadler  
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern  
Member of Congress

Albert Wynn  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

John Tierney  
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

William Delahunt
Member of Congress

Tim Holden
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Major Owens
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Donald Payne
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress