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Lands, Chair
Subcommittee on Insular Affairs

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities
Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary
and Secondary Education

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Dear Friends,

I would like to submit my formal letter of Candidacy for Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus in the 111th Congress.

I do so with the sense of a collective opportunity which the Congressional Progressive Caucus, (CPC) has in the upcoming session. I joined the CPC upon my election six years ago, sharing the values and intent that CPC has brought to our party since 1992. The growth of our Caucus has been significant and we have been a consistent voice for realistic progressive policies and values. However, I believe our clout and influence has not kept pace with the growth of our ranks, or the inclusion of our agenda into key legislative proposals.

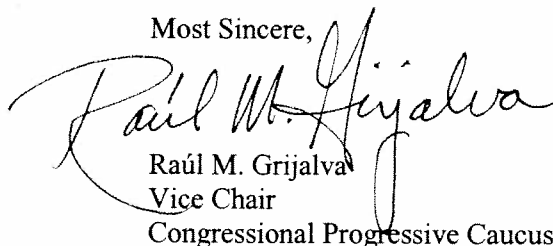
I believe it is time for our Caucus to move to the next level and continue to advance our progressive agenda in an effective and pragmatic manner. By being independent, inclusive of all CPC Members, issue and solution based and unified in our policy decisions – we can be more effective.

The Obama Administration offers CPC the opportunity to work with an administration and to insist upon discussion and consultation with CPC on unraveling the litany of the Bush Administration debacles left in its wake. President Obama and the Democratic Congress are left with a shattered economy that needs rebuilding, a lack of investment in our people and public institutions. We continue to be engaged in a war that must be ended, and a restoration of the rule of law and transparency to our government must be of paramount importance to a new Congress and Administration.

My congressional record on progressive issues is documented in my voting record. My involvement with local and national organizations, such as Progressive Democrats of America, which I serve as a Board Member, the 21st Century Democrats and other organizations that promote candidates and issues at a local, state and national levels, is ongoing. I hope as your Co-Chair, to strengthen our working relationship with Progressive NGOs and issue based organizations, and in doing so, I hope to increase the lobbying/advocacy efforts of these organizations and their relationship to the Congressional Progressive Caucus. As Caucus Members we may differ on perspectives on issues and strategy, but our common ground gives us a tremendous opportunity to promote real change for our Nation.

I have been honored to be a Member of this Caucus and look forward to seeking your support as Co-Chair for the 111th Session of the House of Representatives.

Most Sincere,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Vice Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus