

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear President Trump and Secretary Mullin,

We write regarding the catastrophic flooding that struck Nepal on August 26, 2026, and to urge the Administration to consider immediate temporary protections for Nepali nationals in the United States in light of the extraordinary humanitarian and recovery challenges facing the country.

Nepal's previous Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation was based on conditions following the devastating 2015 earthquake and was terminated after the Department of Homeland Security determined that Nepal had sufficiently recovered from that disaster. following an assessment that the country had substantially recovered from 2015 earthquake and was able to adequately handle the return of its nationals. The August 2026 disaster presents a new and fundamentally different set of circumstances that warrants a new assessment based on current country conditions.

On August 26, 2026, a catastrophic glacial collapse and resulting ice-rock avalanche sent floodwaters, mud, and debris through the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river corridors, devastating communities across northern and central Nepal. An estimated 1.6 million people have been impacted by this disaster. As of September 21, 2026, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority reports 1,451 bodies recovered, over 5,780 people still missing, and an estimated 20,000 houses destroyed. Search and recovery operations remain underway. Roads, bridges, schools, hydropower facilities, and other essential infrastructure have been destroyed or severely damaged. Nepal's government estimates that recovery and reconstruction will cost \$4.78 billion, underscoring the scale of the disaster.

These conditions have placed an extraordinary burden on Nepal as the country undertakes massive rescue, humanitarian, and reconstruction efforts. Many Nepali nationals currently living in the United States are from the communities directly affected by this disaster. Families are attempting to determine whether their loved ones are alive, if homes remain standing, and if their communities remain accessible. The humanitarian concern is particularly acute for former Nepali TPS beneficiaries who no longer have TPS protection and for other Nepali nationals whose immigration cases remain unresolved. For many, removal would mean returning to a country where their homes and communities no longer exist and relatives are missing or deceased.

We therefore respectfully urge the Administration to grant TPS protection to Nepal immediately, under 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1), based on the conditions created by the August 26, 2026 disaster. TPS was specifically designated for situations like this, and the Immigration and Nationality Act specifically lists flood and environmental disasters as a clear reason to designate TPS. We further urge the Administration to engage with the Government of Nepal to secure an official request for redesignation under the environmental disaster authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(B), which would provide an additional, complementary basis for protection.

Such action would be consistent with both the statute and longstanding precedent. DHS has previously designated countries for TPS following catastrophic environmental disasters, including flooding in Honduras and Nicaragua and the devastating 2015 earthquake in Nepal, which killed nearly 9,000 people and displaced millions. The August 2026 floods have similarly caused a substantial, temporary disruption of living conditions, devastating communities and critical infrastructure across Nepal. These floods constitute a new and independent environmental disaster, separate from the conditions underlying Nepal's previous TPS designation, and warrant a new determination based on current country conditions.

If TPS designation cannot be immediately provided, we respectfully ask the Administration to consider other appropriate temporary protections, including **Deferred Enforced Departure for eligible Nepali nationals and a temporary pause on removals** to areas of Nepal where rescue, recovery, and stabilization efforts remain underway.

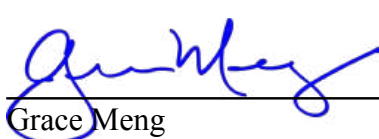
The United States and Nepal have maintained a longstanding partnership, and the United States has repeatedly stood with the Nepali people in the aftermath of natural disasters. Providing appropriate, temporary protections while Nepal undertakes this difficult recovery would be consistent with that partnership and with the humanitarian purposes established by Congress in our immigration laws.

Given the urgency of this situation, we respectfully request prompt consideration of this matter and a response by October 9, 2026.

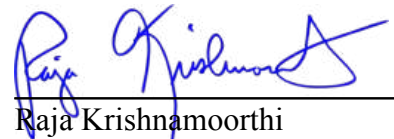
Sincerely,



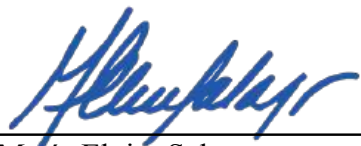
Judy Chu
Chair Emerita, Congressional
Asian Pacific American
Caucus (CAPAC)



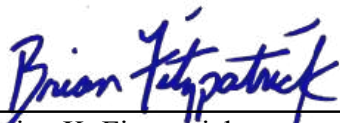
Grace Meng
Chair, Congressional Asian
Pacific American Caucus



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



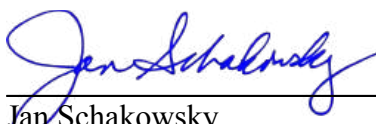
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



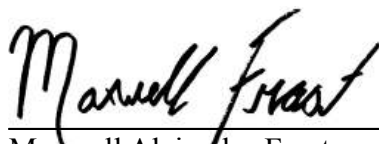
Shri Thanedar
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Jan Schakowsky
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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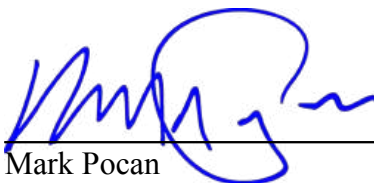
Pramila Jayapal
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MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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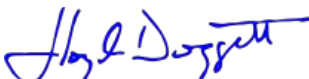
Mark Pocan
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Maxine Waters
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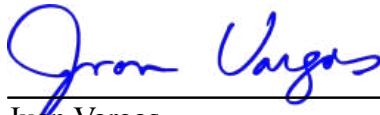
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Lloyd Doggett
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Juan Vargas
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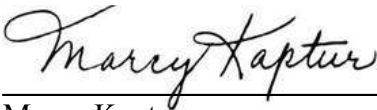
Lateefah Simon
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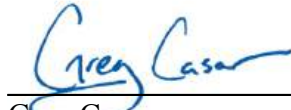
James P. McGovern
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



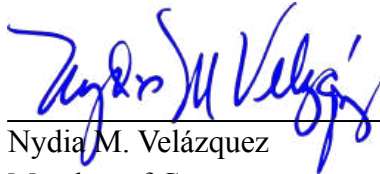
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



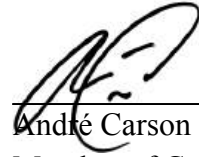
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



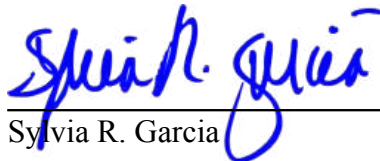
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Sylvia R. García
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Adam Smith
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Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



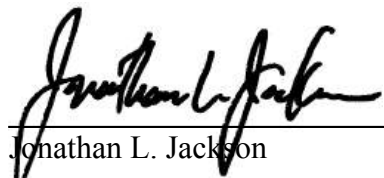
Diana DeGette
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



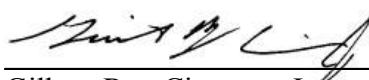
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



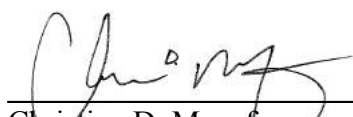
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



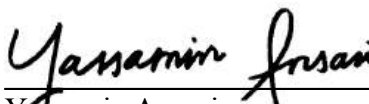
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
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Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



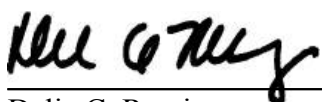
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



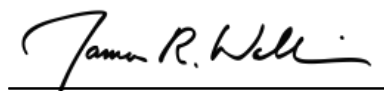
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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