



November 15, 2006

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Dear Colleagues,

I write to express my congratulations on the establishment of the New Zealand United States Friendship Group. I have been extremely honoured to be a founding member and Co-Chair of the Friends of New Zealand Caucus here in the U.S. Congress and look forward to working with you.

I hope that the establishment of our two groups will aide us in strengthening the relationship between our countries and will enhance the interaction between our legislatures. The formation of our respective caucuses will serve to strengthen and promote closer economic, political and social links between the United States and New Zealand in the hopes of working towards a free trade agreement and creating other opportunities for advancing this relationship.

The United States and New Zealand have enjoyed a close relationship and have been trading partners for almost 200 years. We share a common history and common democratic values and have worked together in forums ranging from the World Trade Organization to the 2004 Tsunami relief efforts to the current War on Terror.

I look forward to working with you, the New Zealand United States Friendship Group, and your parliament to continue building upon our strong relationship.



Sincerely,

Ellen O. Tauscher  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Friends of New Zealand Caucus