Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Daniel Lungren
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1307 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Lungren, and Ranking Member Brady:

It has come to our attention the House Franking Commission prohibits the use of holiday messages on official mail pieces and email newsletters. This policy prevents Members of Congress from addressing their constituents in the manner in which they feel is best and is just one more way political correctness is slowly dismantling the meaning of the Christmas and Hanukkah season.

In a recent memo from the Franking Commission Staff providing guidance on this issue, it was stated that "You may make reference to the season as a whole using language along the lines of 'have a safe and happy holiday season,'" while in additional follow-up it was confirmed that greetings like "Merry Christmas" are not permissible.

The purpose of the Franking Commission is to ensure taxpayer dollars are used to inform constituents of important matters and that franking privileges are not abused for political purposes. The responsibility of the Franking Commission should not be to police the greetings that Members use in their mail pieces or to enforce political correctness. How is wishing constituents a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" a political message that is banned, while "have a Happy New Year" is permitted? These are all holiday greetings and should be treated equally.

We are not celebrating winter this December. We are celebrating significant moments in two religions that have fundamentally shaped our nation – and as Members of Congress who represent thousands of constituents celebrating these holidays, we ask you to reconsider these outdated and restrictive rules.

Sincerely,

JOE WALSH (IL-8)
Member of Congress

MIKE ROSS (AR-4)
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Mike Pompeo

Jeff Duncan SC-03

Bill Posey

Tim Huelskamp

Frank R. Wolf

Paul C. Broun

Rodney Alexander

Bill Johnson

Tom Marino

TN-04

Tim Walberg

John Sarbanes

Michael G. Grimm

Jan Schakowsky

Barry Nutting

Strong

Mike Kelly PA-3

Doug Lamborn

W. Cobb Allen

Paul A. Gosar, DDS

Justin Amash MI-03

Dana Rohrabacher

Walter B. Jones

Steve King

Vicky Hartzler

Sam Johnson

Bill Huizenga

Lynn Jenkins

Tim Griffin

Dan Newhouse

John Campbell

Diane Black

Donald A. Manzullo

TX-23

12-21

Joe Wilson

Scott Garrett

Spencer Bachus

Cliff Stearns

Nick Rahall

Dan Burton

Louie Gohmert

Jeff Miller

K. Tx-11

Ralph M. Hall

Rail R. Salzdeler

Randy Hultgren

SIGNED BY:

1) Rep. Joe Walsh (IL-8)
2) Rep. Mike Ross (AR-4)
3) Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-4)
4) Rep. Justin Amash (MI-3)
5) Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-3)
6) Rep. Todd Akin (MO-2)
7) Rep. Bill Posey (FL-15)
8) Rep. Tim Huelskamp (KS-1)
9) Rep. Frank Wolf (VA-10)
10) Rep. Rodney Alexander (LA-5)
11) Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-6)
12) Rep. Paul Broun (GA-10)
13) Rep. Dennis Ross (FL-12)
14) Rep. Tom Marino (PA-10)
15) Rep. Scott DesJarlais (TN-4)
16) Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-7)
17) Rep. Ted Poe (TX-2)
18) Rep. John Sullivan (OK-1)
19) Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-5)
20) Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ-1)
21) Rep. Andy Harris (MD-1)
22) Rep. Bobby Schilling (IL-17)
23) Rep. James Lankford (OK-5)
24) Rep. Michael Grimm (NY-13)
25) Rep. Mike Kelly (PA-3)
26) Rep. Mick Mulvaney (SC-5)
27) Rep. Steve Stivers (OH-15)
28) Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO-4)
29) Rep. Stephen Fincher (TN-8)
30) Rep. Lynn Jenkins (KS-2)
31) Rep. Steve King (IA-5)
32) Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-3)
33) Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-2)
34) Rep. Adam Kinzinger (IL-11)
35) Rep. Tim Griffin (AR-2)
36) Rep. Francisco "Quico" Canseco (TX-23)
37) Rep. Alan Nunnelee (MS-1)
38) Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17)
39) Rep. John Campbell (CA-48)
40) Rep. Raul Labrador (ID-1)
41) Rep. Diane Black (TN-6)
42) Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-19)
43) Rep. Daniel Lipinski (IL-3)
44) Rep. Marlin Stutzman (IN-3)
45) Rep. Don Manzullo (IL-16)
46) Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-2)
47) Rep. Michael Burgess (TX-26)
48) Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11)
49) Rep. Scott Garrett (NJ-5)
50) Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL-6)
51) Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46)
52) Rep. Cliff Stearns (FL-6)
53) Rep. Nick Rahall (WV-3)
54) Rep. Dan Burton (IN-5)
55) Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-4)
56) Rep. Jeff Miller (FL-1)
57) Rep. Michael Conaway (TX-11)
58) Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-1)
59) Rep. Walter Jones (NC-3)
60) Rep. Randy Hultgren (IL-14)
61) Rep. Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)