Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
United States Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Justice is applying for the extradition of Mr. Anthony Rocco Franklin, a U.S. citizen from Argentina to the United States. Extradition has always been an integral part of the United States justice system. The expedient return of this individual for trial in Pennsylvania is necessary to ensure justice for the victim and the constituents we serve.

On July 28, 2014, Franklin and his daughter, Maria Sanutti-Spencer were charged with the murder of her ex-husband, Frank Spencer in July 2012. The facts in his case, as presented by a Pennsylvania Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, demonstrate the pressing need for Franklin's extradition for trial.

The grand jury found that Franklin and Sanutti engaged in "an escalating series of crimes against Spencer and others that culminated in Spencer's death." These crimes and threats, occurring over at least a three year period from 2009 to 2012, included a burglary at the home of Spencer's mother, the arson of Spencer's mother's home, and the arson of Spencer's girlfriend's home. The last event ultimately resulted in additional attempted murder charges as Spencer's girlfriend was in the home when the fire began. In addition, Spencer reported to police over one dozen death threats that Franklin and Sanutti made over this period. Grand jury witnesses, including Spencer's family, his friends, and Sanutti's coworkers, testified that Sanutti made additional threats and statements that she would kill her husband and have her father do it.

These events continued throughout a period of estrangement between Spencer and Sanutti while final divorce negotiations proceeded. Their divorce was finalized in June 2012, and published in the local newspaper on June 30. On July 3, 2012, Frank Spencer was found dead in his home with bullet wounds through the head and torso. Evidence at the crime scene indicated that Spencer was first shot outside his home, and then dragged back through the door where he was shot again with a different firearm. Investigators also discovered a "sniper's nest" from where the first shot occurred.

Franklin testified before on the grand jury in July and August of 2013. Within hours of testifying, Franklin fled Pennsylvania, was briefly stopped by police in West Virginia, and then left the United States from Miami and ultimately arrived in Argentina. Franklin remained a

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fugitive from justice in Buenos Aires, Argentina, until his arrest in September 2014. Franklin's extradition case is currently being heard in Argentina's Federal Criminal and Correctional Court No. 2.

Both Franklin and Sanutti have been charged with the criminal homicide of Spencer, as well as the additional felony crimes of burglary, arson, and attempted murder. The Pennsylvania Senior Deputy Attorney General anticipates that Sanutti's trial will commence as early as this coming September. It is essential for the success of this criminal case and the ultimate achievement of justice that both co-defendants are available and in the country to stand trial at the same time.

Madam Attorney General, as a prosecutor, you understand the importance of presenting the best case possible. In order to do this, the prosecuting attorney must have all possible tools at his disposable. Mr. Franklin must be extradited from Argentina to stand trial with his daughter.

Argentina and the United States have a long history of diplomatic cooperation. Our country also has an extradition treaty with Argentina that provides for the return of fugitives to the United States. Franklin is a United States citizen; he has no ties to Argentina, and he was arrested on a warrant for the crime he committed in Pennsylvania. Argentina has no interest in the prosecution or detention of Franklin that should delay his return.

It is our hope that you give this case your full attention. Mr. Spencer was failed by our justice system for too many years. Help us to ensure that justice is now finally served for him and the loved ones he left behind. The timely and expedient extradition of Franklin is essential to an effective prosecution of both himself and his daughter.

We look forward to your expedient response to our request. Please contact us or our staff if you would like to discuss any aspect of this case.

Sincerely,

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Cc: The Hon. John Kerry
Secretary of State