

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Mr. Michael Carvajal
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20534

Mr. William Lothrop, Jr.
Southeast Regional Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
3800 Camp Crk. Prk. SW, Bldg. 2000
Atlanta, GA 30331

Dear President Biden, Attorney General Garland, Director Carvajal, and Director Lothrop, Jr.:


On October 8, 2021, my colleagues and I requested the expedited release of Mr. Leonard Peltier from the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Florida. The expedited release request was based on his age, underlying health conditions, the amount of time he had already served, and his risk of medical complications due to COVID-19. We write to you again requesting clemency for Mr. Peltier, but with greater urgency, since Mr. Peltier tested positive for COVID-19 on January 28, 2022.

As you are aware, Mr. Peltier's case has been the subject of heavy scrutiny since the 1975 murders of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Due to Mr. Peltier's involvement with the American Indian Movement (AIM) at the time, he was convicted of their murders in 1977 and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. In the ensuing years, revelations of steep evidentiary and procedural violations in Mr. Peltier's prosecution were made public. Despite the serious concerns raised around these revelations, Mr. Peltier exhausted his parole options through the U.S. Parole Commission due to his refusal to accept criminal responsibility.

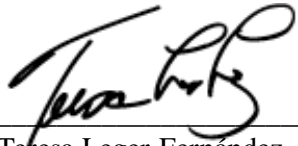
In the federal government's national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Justice (DOJ) authorized the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to release elderly inmates and those with underlying health conditions from federal prisons. Since Mr. Peltier is 77 years old and suffers from diabetes and an abdominal aortic aneurysm, we urged you to release him from federal custody and grant him clemency immediately. Unfortunately, Mr. Peltier has contracted COVID-19 and is now at risk for additional medical complications.

Given Mr. Peltier's new COVID-19 diagnosis and to avoid further risks to his health and safety, we urge you to approve his pending petition for clemency on humanitarian grounds. Thank you again for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

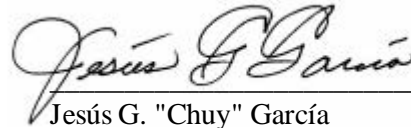
Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



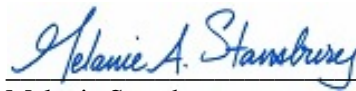
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



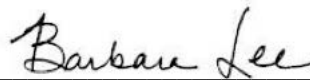
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress