

# 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:

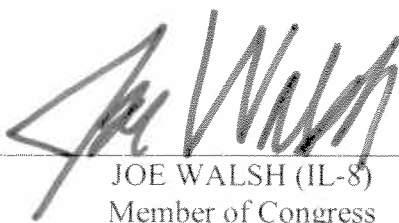
It has come to our attention the House Franking Commission prohibits the use of holiday messages on official mail pieces and email newsletters. This policy prevents Members of Congress from addressing their constituents in the manner in which they feel is best and is just one more way political correctness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



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JOE WALSH (IL-8)  
Member of Congress



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MIKE ROSS (AR-4)  
Member of Congress

My Pampas

Jeff [Signature]

SL-03

Bill Pasay

Tim Huelkamp

Frank R. Wolf

Paul C. Brown

Rodney Alfelt

Bill Johnson

Tom Marino

[Signature]

TN-04

[Signature]

Tim Walberg

John [Signature]

Michael A. Grimm

Jan [Signature]

Ray [Signature]

Steve

Mike Kelly R-3

Doug Laubman

[Signature]

W. Cal [Signature]

Paul A. [Signature]

Just M MI-03

Dana Rohrabacher

Alfred Williams

James King

Nicky Hartzler

Atyd. R

Lynn Jenkins

Tim G. H.

Min. Jones

Quinn Black

Paul Zick

Course TX-23

Sgt Wilson

T. McArthur

Walter B. Jones

Steve King

Sam Johnson

Bill Huzar

Calvin King

Alan Turner

John Campbell

J.P.R.

Mark

Donald A. Mangullo

Phil Ober

Scott Garratt

James Baker

Nick Rahall

Ronie Lehman

K. T. S. Y. Tx-11

Rail R. Schreiber

Cliff Jony

Jan Benton

Jeff Miller

Ralph M. Hall

Randy Hudson

**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)