## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2017

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn Attn: Ethiopian Embassy 3506 International Dr., NW Washington, D.C. 20008

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn,

We write to express our gratitude for the actions your government has taken in response to our letter on May 26, 2017, regarding intercountry adoptions. Thanks to your government's cooperation, many children have been united with loving adoptive families. With gratitude for your previous efforts, we seek your continued assistance with the remaining cases in which American families have pending adoptions in various phases of completion. We feel strongly that any case involving an Ethiopian child matched with an adoptive family should be allowed to continue to completion under the Revised Family Code of 2000. With expeditious resolution of this issue, it is our hope that the bilateral relationship between our two countries can deepen further.

We continue to understand the Ethiopian government's decision regarding future adoption policy. However, according to the U.S. Department of State, there are more than 200 cases in which American families have pending adoptions in various phases of completion. We believe that Ethiopia's pursuit of new adoption legislation must not prevent children who have already been matched with adoptive families from having the opportunity to complete their adoptions according to the law under which they were initiated.

We share your government's concern for the security and welfare of children. Children often form important emotional bonds with the adoptive families with whom they have been "matched." We fear that failing to allow these prospective adoptive parents to complete their adoption processes will impose additional suffering on these children. This is why we remain resolute in our desire to work with you to resolve this situation.

Thank you for your continued attention to this important matter. Our two governments have demonstrated the ability to work cooperatively on a variety of issues. We hope that this issue continues to be among them. We trust that you will work closely with the Department of State to establish a way to unite these children with their adoptive families.

Sincerely,

Roy Blunt

Mitch McConnell

U.S. Senator

Orrin G. Hatch U.S. Senator

Charles E. Grassley

U.S. Senator

John Cornyn U.S. Senator

Amy Klobuchar

U.S. Senator

Christopher A. Coons

U.S. Senator

Dianne Feinstein

W.S. Senator

Michael F. Bennet

U.S. Senator

Bill Nelson

U.S. Senator

Tammy Dickworth

U.S. Senator

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Jerry Moran U.S. Senator Robert Menendez

U.S. Senator

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Rob Portman U.S. Senator

James Lankford U.S. Senator

Tim Scott U.S. Senator

Ted Cruz U.S. Senator

Lindsey Graham U.S. Senator

James M. Inhofe U.S. Senator

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Lamar Alexander U.S. Senator

Mike Lee U.S. Senator

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U.S. Representative

Peter A. Defazio U.S. Representative

Mike Thompson U.S. Representative

Susanii, Brooks

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Peter King

U.S. Representative

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Terri Sewell U.S. Representative Tom Emmer U.S. Representative ason Lewis

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U.S. Representative

Marsha Blackburn U.S. Representative

Tim Walberg U.S. Representative

Billy Long U.S. Representative

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Robert B. Aderholt U.S. Representative

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David Rouzer U.S. Representative

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Bill Johnson
U.S. Representative

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Anthony Brown U.S. Representative