

City of Takoma Park, Maryland



Office of the Mayor

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7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

The Honorable Kathryn H. Porter, Mayor

July 31, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On July 24, 2006, the City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland passed resolution #2006-44, urging support of what was HR 5680 and now is HR 2003, Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act of 2007. I am writing to reiterate our support for this legislation. I understand that voting on this bill is imminent and urge you to help move this legislation forward.

The City of Takoma Park has a large Ethiopian population who are concerned about the protection of human rights in Ethiopia. Recently there has been a release of some of the political prisoners held in Ethiopia, which was an important first step. We urge the United States to encourage the release of all political prisoners in Ethiopia and to adopt democratic processes and institutions.

The City Council believes that the protection of human rights around the world is important to all of us. Human rights violations in other countries hurt the residents of those countries; the commitment of the United States to democracy and freedom is compromised if we fail to speak out against these inhumane acts.

Please express strong support of HR 2003.

Sincerely,

Kathy Porter
Mayor

cc: Takoma Park City Council
Attachment (Resolution #2006-44)