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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I reach out to you again this morning regarding the urgent and evolving situation of American citizens stranded in Peru as a result of the country's decision to close its borders, and request that the Administration step in to arrange for immediate evacuation.

Since my letter to you yesterday, many more constituent families have reached out to me for assistance in getting their loved ones safe and speedy transport back to the United States. I have been told that there are as many as 1,600 U.S. citizens there, and the following constituents of mine (and their travel companions) are among them:

Currently located in Lima are:

Haley Behre; Sea Girt, NJ and her friend Allen Brown; Washington, D.C.
Kirby Given; Toms River, NJ
Noelia Manion; Hamilton, NJ
Debra Hoy; Trenton, NJ

Currently located in Cusco are:

Dylan Budnick; Middletown, NJ and his friend, Evan Raksin of Orangeville, PA
Charles Joel Barchett, Michael Stanley Kuzma, Jeremy Paul Rapp from Peoria, IL

Should your office require additional information on any of these United States citizens, I stand ready to help in any way possible. I ask your assistance in prioritizing the evacuation from Peru of these and other Americans by any appropriate, practicable and timely manner, including the chartering of private or commercial aircraft or the utilization of military planes.

Thank you for your compassionate leadership during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress