



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI
WASHINGTON, DC

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

May 8, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly,

This correspondence serves as a follow up to my letter to you dated May 4, 2017. I am requesting a meeting with you to be attended by the Haitian Foreign Minister, the Honorable Antonio Rodrigue, and myself, to discuss the impending expiration of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for more than 50,000 Haitians living in the United States. The Haitian government strongly believes that a renewal of TPS for Haitians, for at least another eighteen (18) months, is in the national interest of both Haiti and the United States.

As you know, Haiti's economy is heavily supported by Haitians living in the United States. Haitian nationals with TPS inject hundreds of millions of dollars into our economy every year. By our estimates, a Haitian national with TPS impacts the economic livelihood of as many as five (5) Haitian households. Allowing TPS to expire before Haiti can absorb and support their return will cause an immediate increase in poverty in Haiti, as thousands of households will no longer have an economic lifeline. This also will lead to a humanitarian and economic crisis of unprecedented proportions that may spill into the rest of the region, including the United States. For starters, we are likely to witness a sudden rise in clandestine and risky voyages to U.S. shores by people who have had to rely on Haitians with TPS for their survival. There is also a huge cost in time and resources to prevent thousands of Haitians from taking to the sea for risky voyages toward U.S. shores. The cost to the United States of a non-renewal of TPS far outweighs the benefits. A sudden repatriation of tens of thousands of Haitians will give rise to instability in Haiti as well. We have all seen, far too many times, the ramifications of an unstable Haiti and the cost to both our countries. It is therefore in our nations' shared interest to see a renewal of TPS for at least another eighteen (18) months.

As we request a renewal of TPS, the Haitian government is working diligently to ensure that the country is prepared to receive and adequately support the return of its citizens. The

administration of the recently elected Haitian President, his Excellency Jovenel Moise, is in the midst of implementing a carefully crafted development plan for Haiti that not only will significantly improve the lives of Haitians at home, but also will incentivize the return of those living overseas to help the country and prosper. The next eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months will be critical for this plan to begin to yield tangible results. However, a non-renewal of TPS and a sudden repatriation of Haitians living under this status will cause further hardship to Haiti and effectively derail our rebuilding efforts.

Mr. Secretary, I would also like to highlight that by all accounts Haitians with TPS have been exemplary residents in the United States and pose no security threat. Those with employment authorization pay taxes and contribute to their local community in the United States, while supporting families back in Haiti. While we want and are working to welcome our compatriots back to Haiti, the ripple effect from a non-renewal of TPS at this time will prove calamitous for both the United States and Haiti. We stand ready to engage in a discussion to engineer a reasonable timeline for phasing out TPS that would be beneficial to both of our countries.

The devastation from the 2010 earthquake was undeniably monumental. Rebuilding from that catastrophe alone would have been an arduous and lengthy process for any country, but adding to that a series of obstacles including a cholera outbreak, broken pledges by donors and, more recently, Hurricane Matthew causing more than two (2) billion dollars (USD) in damages, leaves my country needing more time before we can welcome our citizens currently benefiting from TPS home. Our two countries have a long history of working hand in hand to address and resolve issues affecting our people. It is in the mutual interest of our two governments to renew TPS for Haitians for at least another 18 months.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Altidor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent.

Paul G. Altidor
Ambassador of Haiti to the U.S.