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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND LAND FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENT

Dr. James Billington  
Librarian of Congress  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Dr. Billington:

In 2011 the Peace Corps will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year, and on behalf of Peace Corps Volunteers past and present and future I request that the Library of Congress mark this special anniversary by establishing a collection of books about the Peace Corps experience written by former Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps staff.

This permanent collection in the Library would honor the work of more than 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers, who have served in 139 host countries around the world since President John F. Kennedy established the agency in March, 1961. The books in this collection would provide an important historical source of information for future generations.

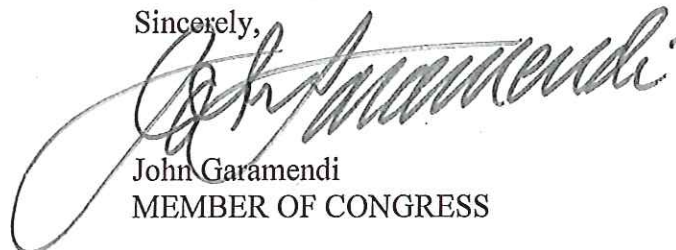
The Peace Corps has produced an amazing number of talented writers, and over 200 of them have published memoirs, novels, short stories, poetry, and essays about their experience. Among these writers are a number of well-known authors: Paul Theroux; Bob Schacochis, winner of the American Book Award in 1985; Richard Wiley, winner of the Pen/Faulkner Award in 1986; Norm Rush, winner of the National Book Award in 1991; Ann Neelon, winner of the Anhinga Prize for Poetry in 1995; and Kent Haruf, author of national bestseller *Plainsong* (1999); as well as magazine and non-fiction writers Peter Hessler, *The New Yorker*; George Packer, *The New Yorker* and Maureen Orth, *Vanity Fair*.

To recognize the achievements of these Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps staff who have written about their experience, I would also like to request that the Library of Congress host a reception for them during the extended weekend of September 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> when the agency will be marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary,

My staff, together with former Peace Corps volunteers and staff will be available to work with you and the Library of Congress staff to produce a quality collection and important event centered around the collection. All we need is your decision to move forward.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this special request.

Sincerely,



John Garamendi  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS