Dear Mr. President:

We request that you immediately designate the Tren de Aragua, Venezuela’s largest criminal gang, as a Transnational Criminal Organization (TCO). This designation is crucial to effectively mobilize national awareness as a result of this threat, as well as deploy necessary resources and sanctions that will help to curb the escalating crime and violence threatening communities across the United States. How many more innocent victims will have to suffer before we fully recognize and address the grave threat Tren de Aragua gang members cause to the peace, stability, and the national security of our nation?

Tren de Aragua is an invading criminal army from a prison in Venezuela that has spread their brutality and chaos to U.S. cities and small towns. If left unchecked, they will unleash an unprecedented reign of terror, mirroring the devastation it has already inflicted in communities throughout Central and South America, most prominently in Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. The breadth of Tren de Aragua's operations encompasses murder, drug and human trafficking, sex crimes, extortion, and kidnapping, among other brutalities. It is clear that most state and local law enforcement agencies are not yet prepared to handle the magnitude of this grave threat.

In Ecuador and Colombia, Tren de Aragua has plunged communities into chaos. Similarly, in Chile and Peru, they have sown fear and instability, undermining the credibility of government institutions, as well as the safety and security of innocent civilians. We cannot afford to underestimate the devastating damage posed by Tren de Aragua. Failure to designate Tren de Aragua as a TCO will only embolden its expansion, leading to heightened violence and criminality within the United States. We cannot permit our cities to become battlegrounds for such organizations, nor can we allow our citizens to suffer at their hands.

Heinous crimes committed by the Tren de Aragua, like the rapes of multiple children and the murders of retired police officer José Luis Sánchez Valera and nursing student Laken Riley, must stop. By designating the Tren de Aragua as a TCO, we will send a clear message that its reign of terror will not be tolerated, and that we will stand united in our resolve to protect our communities from the scourge of transnational organized crime. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator

Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator

Rick Scott
U.S. Senator

Tim Scott
U.S. Senator

John Cornyn
U.S. Senator

Mike Waltz
Member of Congress

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

Andy Ogles
Member of Congress

Carlos Giménez
Member of Congress

Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress
Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Mario Díaz-Balart
Member of Congress

C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

James R. Baird
Member of Congress

Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress