



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

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ASSEMBLY CONTINUES ADVOCACY MEETINGS AND PROMOTES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AS CONGRESS RECESSES

WASHINGTON, DC – With Congress in recess until after the November elections, the Armenian Assembly stepped up its advocacy efforts, meeting with several lawmakers to promote Armenian-American concerns.

Board of Trustees Executive Committee Member Annie Totah, along with Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, met with Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to discuss the U.S.-Armenia relationship as well as key issues such as reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide. Cantwell who is serving her first term in office, is a cosponsor of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (S. Res. 320).

Totah and Ardouny also met with Armenian Caucus Member Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), an avid supporter of Armenian issues including the South Caucasus Integration and Open Railroads Act (H.R. 3361) and the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H. Res. 316). This past summer Maloney spearheaded a letter to the European Union expressing concern regarding Turkey's ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide. In her letter, Maloney urged the European Commission to consider Turkey's stance on the Armenian Genocide and the ongoing blockade which impairs the regional stability of the South Caucasus in consideration of its membership into the European Union. Maloney is a Ranking Member of the Joint Economic Committee as well as a member of the Financial Services and Government Reform Committees and serves as a co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus. Totah and Ardouny thanked the Congresswoman for her strong support of the Armenian community.

Additionally, Totah and Ardouny met with Armenian Caucus Members Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Edward Royce (R-CA), and thanked the Representatives for their support of H.R. 3361, a bill prohibiting U.S. funding for a rail link that connects Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Kars, Turkey while bypassing Armenia. They also commended the lawmakers for sponsoring an amendment ensuring that no Export-Import money is spent on efforts that would isolate Armenia from economic and regional transportation opportunities. A similar amendment was adopted by the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee with strong Assembly support.

“We thank Senator Cantwell for her receptiveness to the concerns of the Armenian-American community, and we look forward to working with her and her staff in promoting Armenian concerns,” said Totah. “Additionally, we thank Representatives Crowley, Maloney, Royce and Sherman for their continued support and work on the federal level for the Armenian community.”

The Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization.

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Photographs:



Caption: Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) flanked by Executive Director Bryan Ardouny (left) and Board of Trustees Executive Committee Member Annie Totah.



Caption: Board of Trustees Executive Committee Member Annie Totah (left) with Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).



Caption: L to R: Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Board of Trustees Executive Committee Member Annie Totah and Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.



Caption: Executive Director Bryan Ardouny (left) with Congressman Edward Royce (R-CA).



Caption: Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) with Board of Trustees Executive Committee Member Annie Totah.