

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Sheikh Hasina  
Prime Minister of Bangladesh  
Old Sangsad Bhaban  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
Bangladesh

Dear Prime Minister Hasina:

As women Senators, we write to express our support for Grameen Bank—a crucial lifeline for many poor and formerly poor Bangladeshi women—and to strongly urge the Government of Bangladesh to fully support the integrity of Grameen Bank and its commitment to its borrowers. We are concerned that any actions to harm this model institution would seriously hurt Bangladesh and poor women in particular.

Through innovative and successful microcredit loans, Grameen Bank has allowed millions of poor women and men in Bangladesh to become entrepreneurs and have a chance at a better life. As you know, Grameen Bank serves more than 8.3 million borrowers, 97 percent of whom are women. These women own the vast majority of Grameen Bank's shares, making the bank one of the world's largest and most prominent institutions owned by rural women.

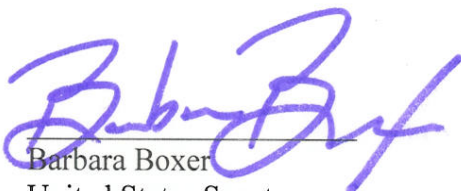
For decades, Grameen Bank's unique lending model has proven effective and positively impacted entire communities. Grameen's success has served as an example to countless other organizations seeking to address extreme poverty through independent innovation. That is why we believe it is absolutely essential that Grameen Bank be allowed to continue conducting business in an autonomous manner that best serves its borrowers.

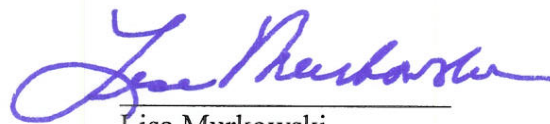
For example, as you know, Grameen Bank has been without a permanent Managing Director since May 2011. It is vital that Grameen Bank's Board of Directors—nine of whom are women duly elected to represent the Bank's client-shareholders—be allowed to move forward in appointing a capable and permanent individual to fill this post.

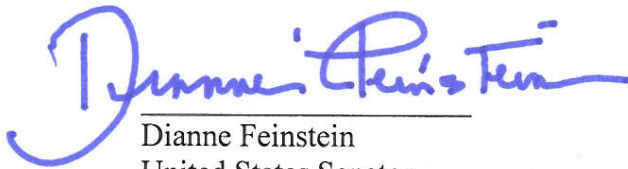
We appreciate the commitments you have made to the advancement of women in Bangladesh, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the long-term stability and integrity of this model institution.

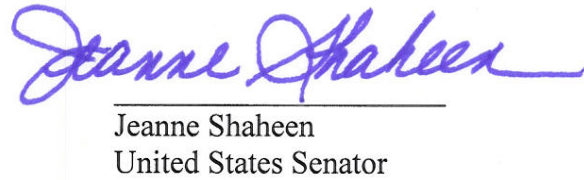
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

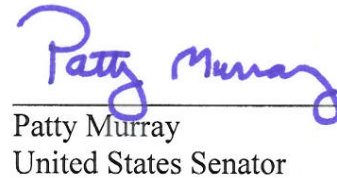
  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

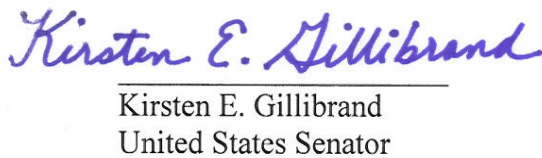
  
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

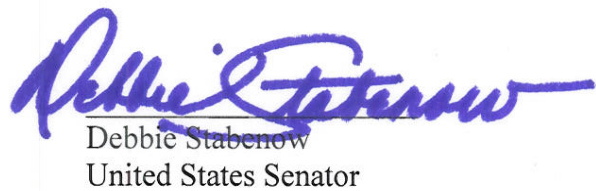
  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

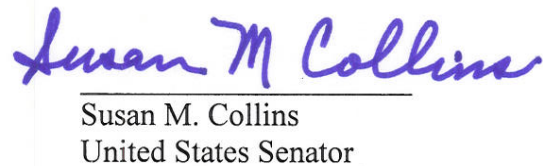
  
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

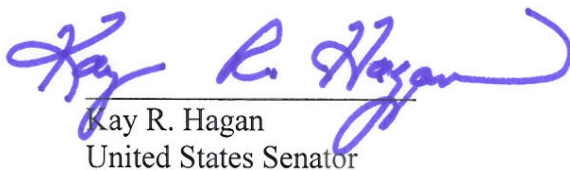
  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

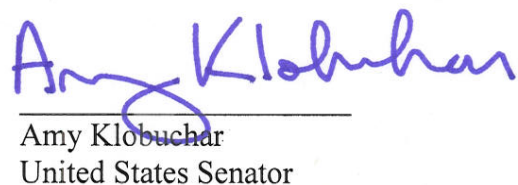
  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator

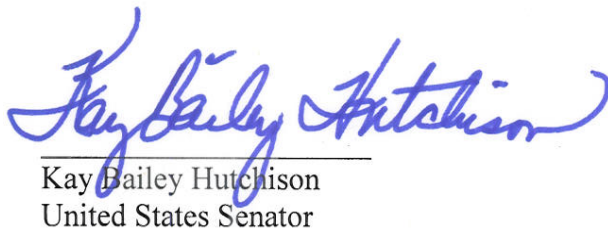
  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

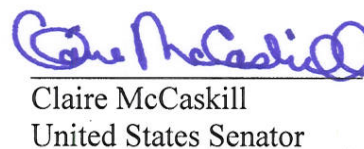
  
Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

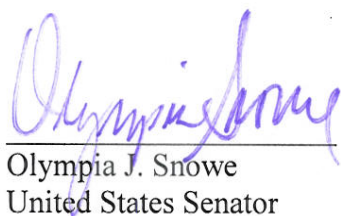
  
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

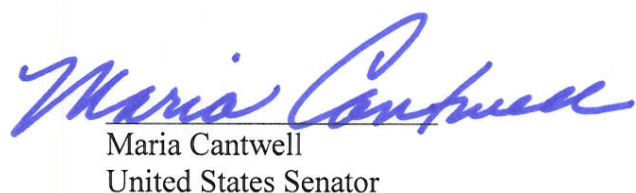
  
Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senator

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senator

  
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator

  
Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator

  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

*Kelly A. Ayotte*

Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator