

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 12, 2018

The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle  
President  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners  
536 North Harlem Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305-1932

President Preckwinkle:

As a fellow elected official who represents Cook County, I am certain you share our dismay and disgust at the racist and deplorable tirade that was recently reported<sup>1</sup> at Caldwell Woods which, as you know, is Cook County Forest Preserve property. I am confident that you will agree that this kind of behavior has no place anywhere in our county, our community, our state, or our nation.

We applaud the Department of Law Enforcement's investigation of the circumstances of this encounter and its decision to place the officer in question on desk duty pending the outcome of said investigation. However, the question remains: what is being done to ensure that officers have the training needed so that this kind of incident does not happen again? Cook County and its residents makeup one of our nation's most diverse counties. That this should happen here, of all places, is shocking and terrifying; most of all to the members of the minority communities that we all represent.

Therefore, we would encourage you to remind all employees of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County of their responsibility to not only their professional duty, but to their moral duty, when they see someone being harassed and attacked due to intolerance and ignorance. As Abraham Lincoln said, "Important principles may, and must, be inflexible," and the acceptance of racial diversity is one of the things we cherish most in the United States, in Illinois, and in Cook County.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to ensure it is not repeated.

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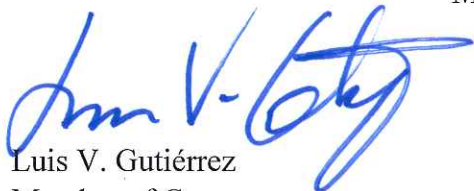
<sup>1</sup> Video appears to show forest preserves officer failing to help woman being harassed for wearing shirt with Puerto Rican flag (<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-cook-county-forest-preserves-investigation-20180710-story.html>).

We must stand in firm opposition to the continued harassment and intolerance of the diversity represented by our fellow Americans.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress