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December 20, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In 1925, Dr. John H. Finely, editor-in-chief of the New York Times, presented a rug made by survivors of the Armenian Genocide to then-President Calvin Coolidge in appreciation of America's generosity in providing emergency assistance and shelter to the survivors.

It is my understanding that a recent request for this rug to be made available for a public display at the Smithsonian Institution could not be accommodated, due to the specific circumstances surrounding the event and age and fragility of the rug.

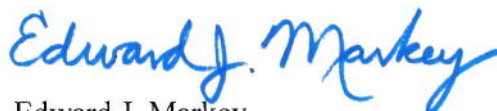
I hope that this rug – which exemplifies America's humanitarian spirit and the character and goodwill of the Armenian people – will be exhibited in the near future for the public to see, consistent with the need to protect and preserve this precious reminder of a dark chapter in the history of Armenia and the world.

With that in mind, I respectfully request that the rug be permissibly borrowed during the spring of 2014. It would be ideal to have the rug on display within the halls of the Smithsonian or a similar appropriate venue.

In addition, should a museum ask that the rug be loaned for an appropriate special exhibition, I would hope that such a request be granted freely and without reservation so as to highlight America's proud chapter of humanitarian intervention and the courage of our diplomats during the days and months following the Armenian Genocide, which resulted in saving the lives of the young orphan girls who wove the historic rug.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator