

RANDY HULTGREN, Illinois
Co-Chairman



JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts
Co-Chairman

One Hundred and Fifteenth Congress
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Dr. József Tóth
Mayor of 13th District of Budapest
Bp. Főv. XIII. Kerületi Polgármesteri Hivatal
1139 Budapest, Béke tér 1, Hungary

Dear Mayor Tóth:

We write to thank you for your kind invitation to the unveiling of a statue of Tom Lantos.

Former Congressman Tom Lantos is the namesake of the Commission that we chair. In that sense, Budapest's 13th district is part of our Commission's story, in particular the Újlipótváros neighborhood where Raoul Wallenberg set up safe houses for Jewish Hungarians whose lives were threatened by Nazi occupiers and their Hungarian collaborators. Few people in the United States did more than Congressman Lantos to spread the story of Raoul Wallenberg, as Lantos was one of those whose life was saved by Wallenberg. His time working as a very young man as part of Wallenberg's life-saving network during the Hungarian Holocaust was the crucible that formed his life-long commitment to human rights, a commitment he carried with him to his new home, the United States, and eventually formed the backbone of a storied 27-year career in Congress.

We respect and appreciate that by installing this statue you are also acknowledging a terrible period in Hungarian history. Honoring and celebrating Tom Lantos' commitment to help the downtrodden and support human rights for vulnerable groups reflects your own commitment to honor these values, which must never be forgotten, whether in Hungary, the United States, or anywhere else in the world. While we regret that we cannot attend the ceremony in person, we send you our best wishes and appreciation for erecting this monument.

Sincerely,

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
Co-Chairman, TLHRC

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
Co-Chairman, TLHRC