

February 12, 2009

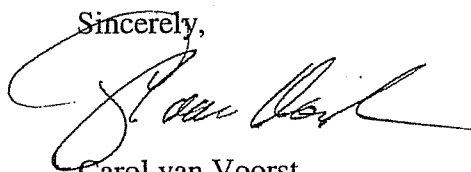
His Excellency Steingrímur J. Sigfússon
Minister of Finance, Fisheries, and Agriculture
Republic of Iceland

Dear Minister Sigfússon:

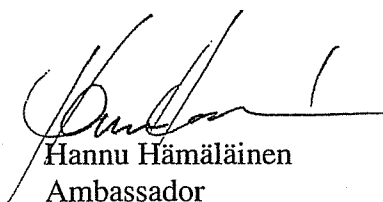
We are writing you today to express our governments' extreme disappointment in the decision of your predecessor to issue a quota for 150 fin and 100 minke whales to be harvested in Icelandic waters. We applaud your interest in re-evaluating this decision. We deeply regretted Iceland's decision to resume commercial harvest of fin and minke whales in 2006, and each of our governments objected to Iceland's reservation to the commercial whaling moratorium adopted pursuant to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

Our governments are concerned that the issuance of a quota at this time will undermine the "Future of the IWC" efforts, in which Iceland has been a participant. It is critical that the continuation or expansion of Iceland's commercial harvest or international trade in whale meat does not undermine goodwill or hamper progress in resolving issues pending before the Commission. We call on Iceland to reconsider this decision and focus on the advancement of the Commission, and the long-term rather than short-term interests of the whaling industry.

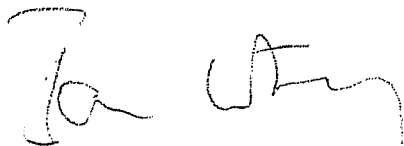
Sincerely,



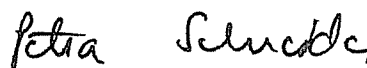
Carol van Voorst
Ambassador
Embassy of the United States of America



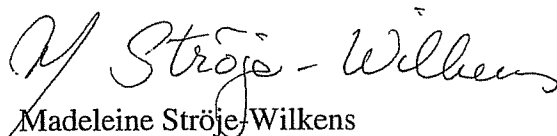
Hannu Hämäläinen
Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of Finland



Ian Whitting
Ambassador
Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy



Petra Schneider
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

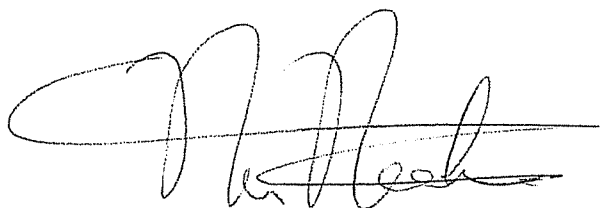


Madeleine Ströje-Wilkens
Ambassador
Embassy of Sweden



Alain Fortin
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Embassy of the French Republic

CC: Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir
Foreign Minister Össur Skarphéðinsson
Minister for the Environment Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ronald van Roeden

Ambassador

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands