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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 23, 2015

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

CONGRESSIONAL
GLOBAL HEALTH CAUCUS,
CO-FOUNDER

CONGRESSIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS,
CO-CHAIR

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend this annual Eritrean Independence Day celebration. I regret that I am unable to join in person today, but wish to extend my best wishes to you as you share this national holiday with your family and friends.

In 1991, the people of Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia after decades of struggle. As you gather here today to celebrate this holiday, you all can be proud of the hard won challenges that your country has overcome to achieve national sovereignty. It is important to share stories and celebrate the pride with your children today and future generations to come.

The Eritrean Diaspora living in Minnesota has much to celebrate as you maintain family and economic ties to your homeland of Eritrea. Minnesotans can be proud that you have chosen our state as your new home, and for enriching our community with your many social, cultural and economic contributions. Thank you for making our community a better place.

Enjoy the celebration and have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress