

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We write to express our growing concern with the political situation in Haiti. As you are aware, the second round of the presidential elections scheduled for last January 24th was postponed by the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), due to threats of violence. President Michel Martelly subsequently left office on February 7th, as mandated by the constitution and without a duly elected successor in place. The selection of Jocelerme Privert as interim president may have calmed the waters for the moment; however, it is vital that his interim government accomplish its primary task of completing the second round so Haitians can choose a president.

The steps required to meet that objective are naming a new electoral council, implementing recommendations to improve the electoral process, and conducting the second round of the presidential election by April 24, 2016.

Again, all of this has occurred against the backdrop of a tumultuous electoral process that saw the postponement of elections in which the United States had invested more than \$30 million and much diplomatic effort. The CEP postponed the second round despite the fact that the Organization of American States (OAS) and other independent observers reported the elections to be reasonably fair, with no patterns of egregious fraud. The elections as a whole cost about \$80 million.

Our experience with Haiti leads us to believe that the postponement had less to do with the electoral process than it did with the losing candidates manufacturing a crisis in order to achieve a “do-over” with the hope of a different result. This would set a terrible precedent for Haiti if allowed to succeed.

We urge the Department of State to use every tool at its disposal to ensure that Haitian authorities conduct elections by the agreed upon deadline. This would require working closely with Interim President Privert and the new CEP to keep the election schedule on track and to avoid any pretexts for another postponement.

We also ask the Department to identify and punish the “spoilers” who routinely undermine and disrupt the electoral process for their own interests. This would include those who take to the streets to engage in violence and those who urge or pay others to do so. For example, those who

bankroll chaos, promote violence and undermine Haiti's stability should not be able to travel freely to the United States to escape the mess they create back home.

We are confident you share with us the desire to see that the Haitian people have a government of their choosing and that is responsive to their needs, so that the country can enjoy the stability and prosperity the people deserve. Given the long-standing difficulties and challenges in achieving these objectives, it is imperative that the administration play an energetic role to support those who are working for those outcomes in Haiti and to confront those who seek to sabotage democracy and the rule of law for their own self-interest.

We look forward to your response explaining in detail the Department's strategy for advancing these goals in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



David A. Perdue
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator