

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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RANKING MEMBER—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-
SCIENCE

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CO-CHAIR—TOM LANTOS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 22, 2010

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The Honorable Thomas Rust
Virginia House of Delegates
1020 Monroe St
Herndon VA 20170-3213

Dear Tom:

I write today in support of your commitment to raise awareness about the rising incidents of Lyme disease in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As you have recognized, there is also a great need to support those already suffering from this serious and often overlooked disease. There is no question that Lyme disease is a growing public health concern in Virginia, and I believe elected officials at all levels of government should address this issue with vigor.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, reported cases of Lyme have steadily increased in Virginia since 1999, doubling from 2006-2007. Perhaps even more alarming, researchers at the Yale School of Public Health reported earlier this month that birds, in addition to deer, host the black legged tick and could have helped spread Lyme disease across the northeast.

I understand that you have introduced legislation (H.B. 512) in the Virginia House of Delegates that allows licensed physicians to prescribe, administer, or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy to a patient diagnosed with Lyme disease, and protects physicians who choose this course of treatment against disciplinary action so long as clinical diagnosis and treatment for the respective patient has been documented. I support this effort.

As you know, I am a co-chair of the bipartisan House Lyme Disease Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and have advocated for legislation that would increase federal research and education with regard to Lyme. I have also encouraged my counterparts on the House Appropriations Committee to approve health care reports that reference "chronic Lyme" in directing CDC and

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the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to step up their research with regard to this devastating disease.

Again, thank you for your efforts on the behalf of those suffering from Lyme. I look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

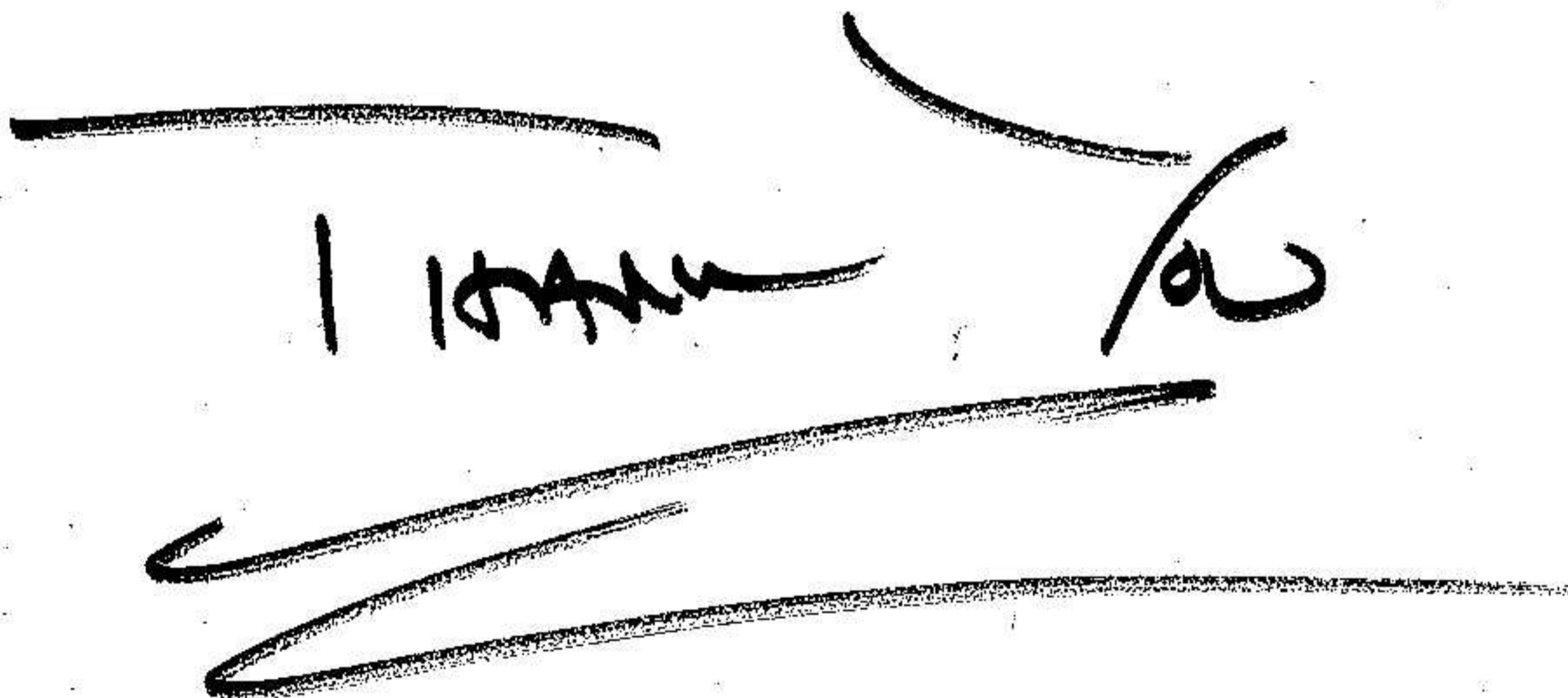
Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp

cc: The Honorable Barbara Comstock (34th District of Virginia)
The Honorable Kaye Kory (38th District of Virginia)
The Honorable Joe May (33rd District of Virginia)
The Honorable Lionell Spruill, Sr. (77th District of Virginia)

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading 'I [unclear] [unclear]', is written in black ink. Below the signature are several horizontal scribbles and lines, including a long, thick, wavy line that spans across the bottom of the page.