



Thank you for contacting me about United States policy towards Cuba. It is good to hear from you on this important topic.

As you may know, the United States has pursued a policy of economic and political isolation against the Cuban government for decades. I believe that U.S. policy towards Cuba has achieved little more than to isolate the United States on Cuba-related issues. It is time to stop the trade embargo and to fully embrace travel, trade and other cooperative initiatives between the American and Cuban people. In early 2009, President Obama took the first step towards correcting this policy by announcing that the U.S. would loosen restrictions on family travel and remittances to Cuba and allow U.S. telecommunications companies to improve communications with Cuba.

Like President Obama, I believe that the United States should reach out to the Cuban people to promote the free flow of information and humanitarian goods. The best way to improve living standards and expand political freedoms in Cuba is to increase openness, economic opportunity, and communication with the outside world.

That is why in the 111th Congress I am a cosponsor of S. 428, the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act. This legislation, introduced by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), would prohibit the President from regulating or restricting travel to or from Cuba by U.S. citizens except in certain narrowly defined cases. In addition, I am a cosponsor of S. 1089, the Promoting American Agricultural and Medical Exports to Cuba Act of 2009. This bill would facilitate the export of American agricultural goods to Cuba and remove impediments to the export of medicine and medical devices to Cuba. While both bills are currently under consideration by committees on which I do not sit, I look forward to full Senate consideration of these important pieces of legislation.

Please know that I will keep your thoughts in mind as I continue to fight for a more constructive relationship with Cuba during the 111th Congress. If you would like to know more about my work in the United States Senate, please feel free to sign up for my weekly updates at <http://murray.senate.gov/updates/>.

Again, thank you for contacting me and please keep in touch.

I hope all is well in Seattle.

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