



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2015

Dear Friends,

I regret that I am unable to attend the dinner hosted by the Institute for Korean-American Studies at George Mason University this evening.

Starting during my years as a delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, and continuing in my first year as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have been blessed to have a close personal relationship with many Korean-Americans who live in Virginia's Tenth District.

This evening's dinner is a culmination of the important work accomplished at the annual ICAS Summer Symposium. I want to express my gratitude to President and Chairwoman Synja P. Kim, Vice President Sang Joo Kim, and their leadership team—all of whom have generously given their time and energy as volunteers—for having assembled a fantastic group of students, scholars, and civic leaders who have spent the day exploring the challenges and issues facing the Korean-American community.

The theme of this year's symposium emphasizes heritage, which I find to be especially timely. And the questions that drove your presentations and discussions: "What is our responsibility to future generations?" and "What shall we hand down to our children?" are critically important not only to Korean-Americans, but to all Americans.

There is much that the rest of America can learn from your deliberations today. Ours is a nation of immigrants, and we all have greatly benefited from the contributions of the Korean people. The culture of Korean-Americans is one which helps to revive our common values of freedom and hard work, with a special emphasis on the importance of education and family responsibility. I hope for the continued success of the Korean-American, and I am proud to call each of you my neighbor and friend.

Again, as a member of the United States Congress representing the Tenth District of Virginia, I thank you for the invitation to join you this evening. I look forward to continuing our work on our many common interests and goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Comstock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress