



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

May 17, 2016

The Honorable Jorge A. Milla Reyes
Ambassador of Honduras
3007 Tilden Street, NW, Pod 4M
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Milla Reyes:

Thank you for your March 22, 2016 letter. The Secretary asked that I respond on his behalf.

We appreciate your interest in Honduras' Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation and your conveyance of Secretary Corrales' letter requesting an extension of the designation. The discretionary authority to designate a country for TPS is based upon specific statutory criteria and is vested in the Secretary of Homeland Security. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b)(1). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the Department of Homeland Security Component principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

As Secretary Corrales noted in his letter, Honduras was initially designated for TPS on January 5, 1999. Since then, its designation has been continuously extended twelve times. As required by statute, prior to the expiration of any TPS designation, the Secretary, after consultation with appropriate U.S. Government agencies, reviews the conditions related to a country designated for TPS to determine whether the conditions support an extension of the country's existing designation for TPS. *See* INA § 244(b)(3). The Secretary will undertake a review of Honduras' designation prior to its July 5, 2016 expiration. Once a decision is made, it will be announced by USCIS and a detailed notice published in the Federal Register.

More information on TPS can be found on the USCIS website, at www.uscis.gov/tps. You can find specific information about Honduras' TPS designation by selecting "Honduras" from the menu on the left side of the webpage.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "León Rodríguez".

León Rodríguez
Director