

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2013

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge your favorable consideration of Fred Ross, Sr. for posthumous receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which may be awarded to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to cultural or other significant public endeavors.

Fred Ross, Sr. was a key driving force for workers' rights and equality. For decades, he organized community organizations throughout California, enabling the people's voice to be heard and changing a culture of segregation and worker abuse. He organized migrant workers in the 1930s, challenged segregation of Mexicans and African Americans in schools and places of public accommodations, helped found the United Farm Workers, and fought police abuse of minorities in Los Angeles.

Fred Ross was one of our country's most effective community organizers. He used voter registration drives and house parties to develop unity and teamwork and improve voter turnout, and worked to forge coalitions of civil rights groups, labor unions, and Catholic and Jewish religious organizations.

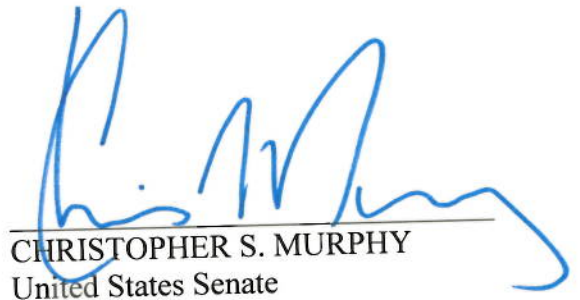
While most of Mr. Ross's work was in California and Arizona, his ideas, organizing practices, and strong sense of freedom and fairness are now commonplace across the country, including in our state of Connecticut. His influence is as strong today as it was decades earlier.

Fred Ross Sr.'s accomplishments and influence are truly "meritorious contributions" to our national culture. We hope you will give him your utmost consideration for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
United States Senate