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PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET
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KAREN BASS
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Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my greetings to the **African Diaspora Network** and the attendees at the **2017 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)**.

Since my election to Congress just over six years ago, I have had a special focus on Africa through my service as the lead Democrat on the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I am proud of the 10-year reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) in 2015, which governs trade between the U.S. and nations on the Continent, and I understand and believe that strengthening and increasing business engagement between the U.S. and Africa is of critical importance.

Every year, the ADIS brings together entrepreneurs and business leaders with Silicon Valley investors to recognize and foster the innovative spirit of Africans in the diaspora. Africans in the U.S. can act as a bridge across language and culture, to help facilitate that critical engagement. I applaud the variety of conference topics, including financial inclusion and the critical value of women entrepreneurs.

Since 2010, the ADN has encouraged collaboration among Silicon Valley Investors and diaspora Africans. I appreciate its mission to harness and engage the entrepreneurial spirit of Africans and friends of Africa in support of economic and social development. Robust partnerships created at events like ADIS strengthen the vital economic ties that benefit both U.S. and our African partners.

You have my best wishes on a memorable event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

Karen Bass
Member of Congress
37th District of California

