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

July 29, 2023

Ananda Mela – Joyful Festival of India Redmond City Hall 15670 NE 85th Street Redmond, WA 98052

Dear Ananda Mela Festival Attendees:

I send my warmest greetings to all those attending Ananda Mela – Joyful Festival of India, the Pacific Northwest's largest festival of India that is taking place just outside of Seattle! Drawing over 25,000 visitors each year, Ananda Mela celebrates the cultural heritage of India with an educational and enriching experience. With Indian music and dance, delicious Indian cuisine, arts and crafts, games, contests, and more, it is a beautiful showcase of all that our culture has to offer.

As the first South Asian American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, I am proud of my family's roots and heritage in India, a country where my parents still live and of which I was a citizen for three decades. I still go back to visit often and am thrilled to see a vibrant festival taking place near Seattle that celebrates all of the incredible things in our rich heritage.

I am thankful to the Vedic Cultural Center and its dedicated volunteers for their hard work in organizing the 12th year of this celebration. Thank you for using this festival as an opportunity to build cultural bridges and bring our community together. My best wishes for a joyful and successful event!

Sincerely,

PRAMILA JAYAPAL

Member of Congress