

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

July 26, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership in honoring our responsibility to protect and defend the American people. As you know, our challenge as elected officials is to preserve Americans' liberties while protecting our national security.

This week, the House of Representatives considered an amendment offered by Representatives Amash and Conyers to H.R. 2397, the Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Appropriations bill. The Amash-Conyers amendment would have limited NSA's ability to collect bulk telecommunications records pursuant to Section 215 of the Patriot Act as codified in Section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Although the amendment was defeated 205-217, it is clear that concerns remain about the continued implementation of the program in its current form.

Although some of us voted for and others against the amendment, we all agree that there are lingering questions and concerns about the current 215 collection program. These include:

- Whether the bulk metadata telecommunications collection program sufficiently protects the privacy and civil liberties of Americans.
- Whether the program could be tailored more narrowly to better ensure the protection of privacy and civil liberties.
- Whether the law is being implemented in a manner consistent with Congressional intent.
- How we can ensure greater transparency regarding FISA court operations, decision making, and issuance of orders.
- Whether changes to the current FISA Court structure are needed.

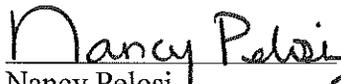
Congress must examine the various national security collection programs and consider amendments to the law. We have been assured that the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board has embarked on a review of the collection programs done pursuant to FISA and the Patriot Act, and has agreed to review various legislative proposals.

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We look forward to working with you and Administration officials to address the concerns outlined above and to explore options which will preserve Americans' privacy and civil liberties while protecting our national security.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to these concerns.

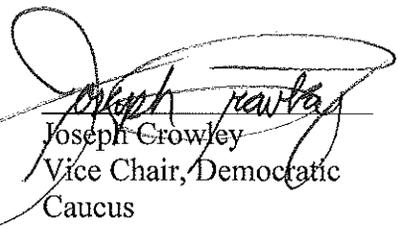
Sincerely,

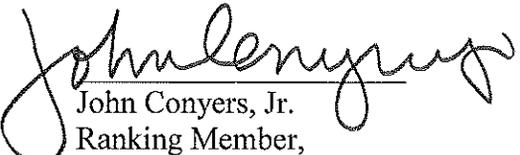
  
Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader

  
Steny H. Hoyer  
Democratic Whip

  
James E. Clyburn  
Assistant Democratic  
Leader

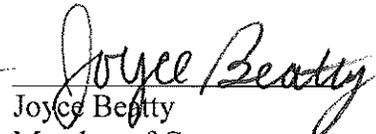
  
Xavier Becerra  
Chair, Democratic Caucus

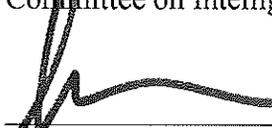
  
Joseph Crowley  
Vice Chair, Democratic  
Caucus

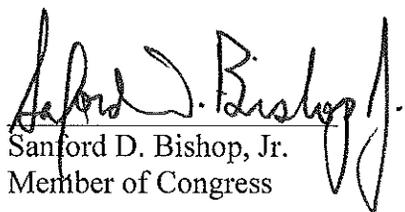
  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member,  
Committee on the  
Judiciary

  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Ranking Member,  
Permanent Select  
Committee on Intelligence

  
Robert E. Andrews  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

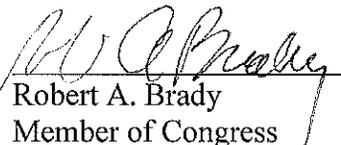
  
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

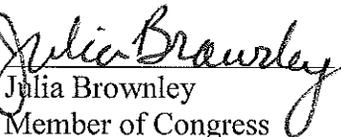
  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Timothy J. Bishop  
Member of Congress

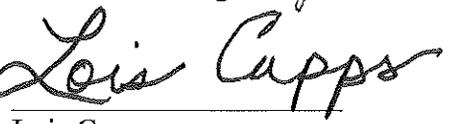
  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

  
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

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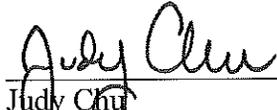
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



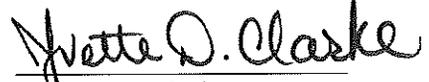
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



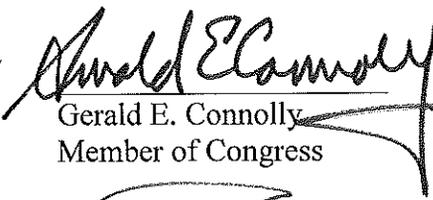
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



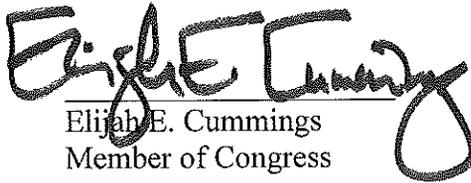
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



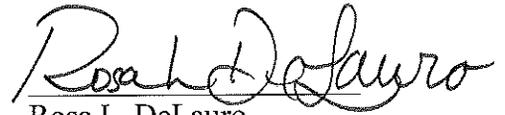
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



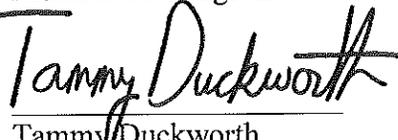
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



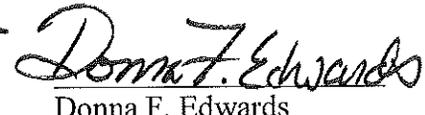
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



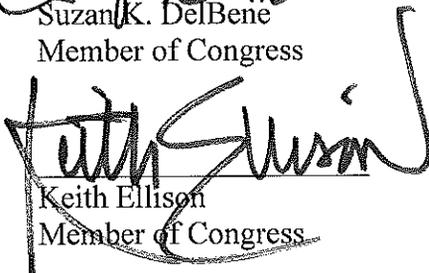
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



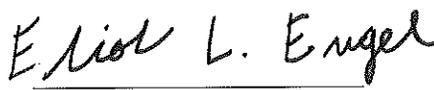
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress



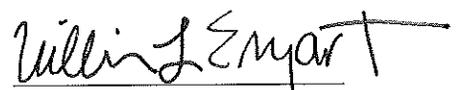
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



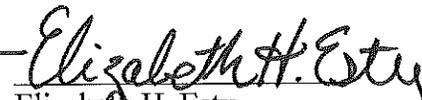
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



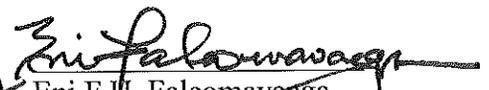
William L. Enyart  
Member of Congress



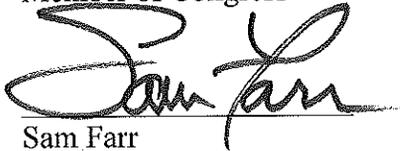
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Eni F. H. Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



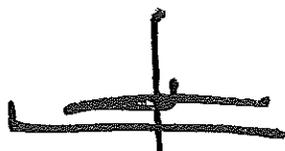
Joe Garcia  
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

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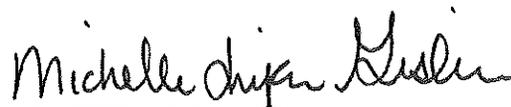
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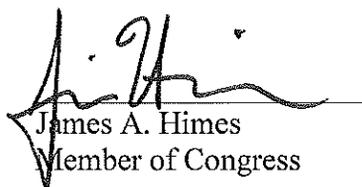
Colleen W. Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



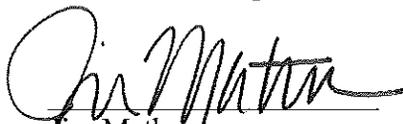
Daniel B. Maffei  
Member of Congress



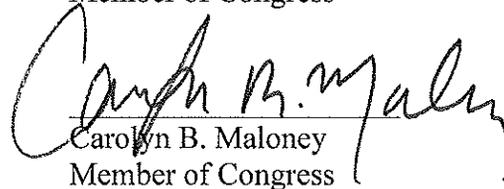
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



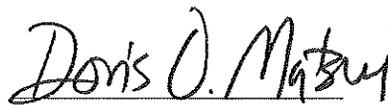
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



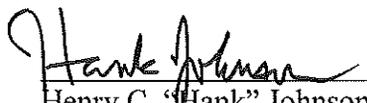
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

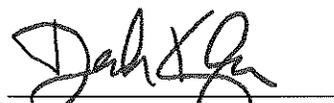


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson,  
Jr.  
Member of Congress

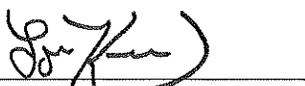


Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



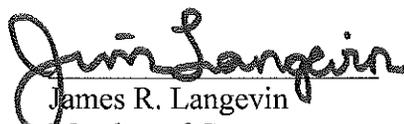
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Arn Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



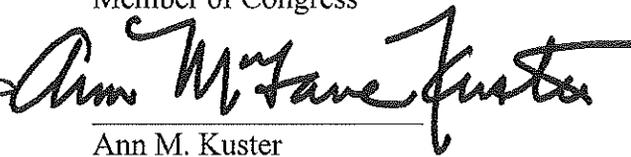
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



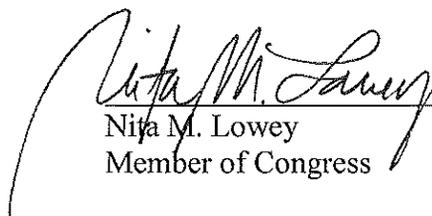
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



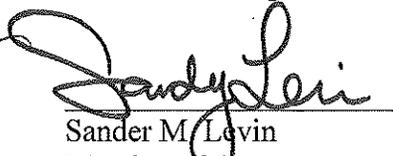
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



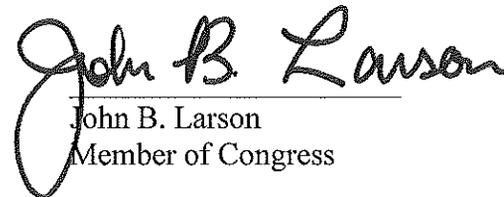
Ann M. Kuster  
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

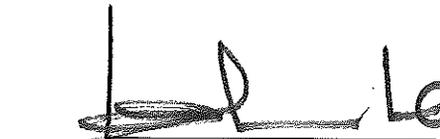


Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



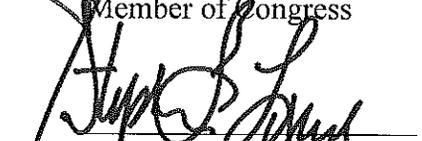
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

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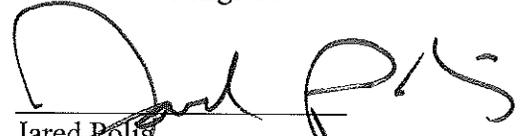
  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

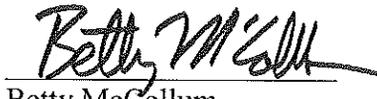
  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

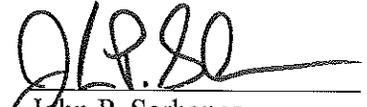
  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

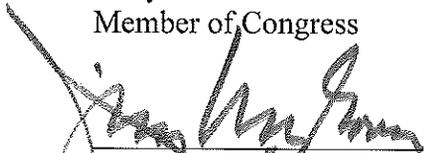
  
Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

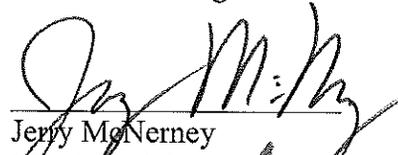
  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

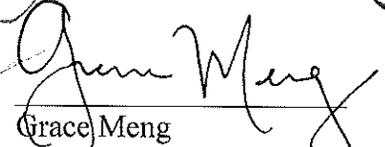
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

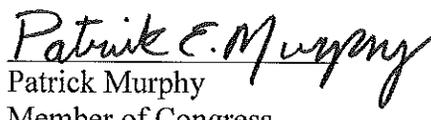
  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

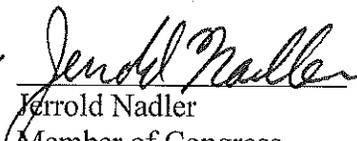
  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

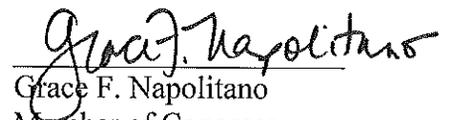
  
George Miller  
Member of Congress

  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

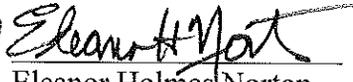
  
James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

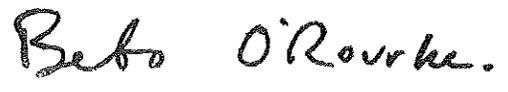
  
Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress

  
Ferrol Nadler  
Member of Congress

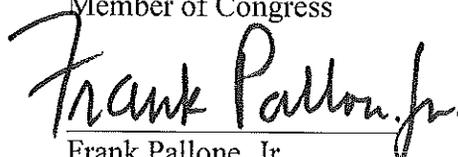
  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

  
Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

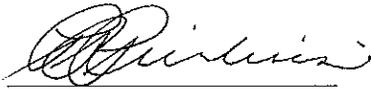
  
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

  
William L. Owens  
Member of Congress

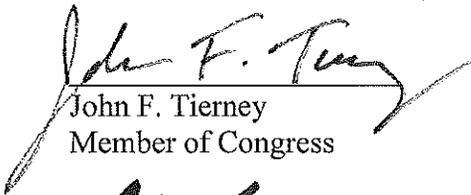
  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress

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Pedro R. Piersluisi  
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress



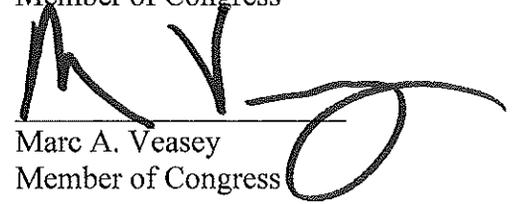
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



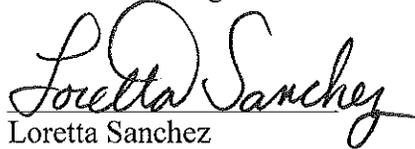
David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



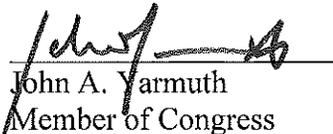
Debbie Wasserman  
Schultz  
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



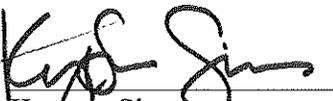
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



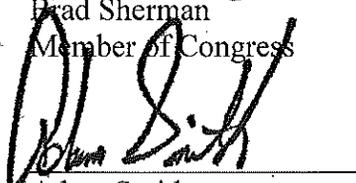
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



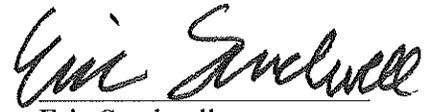
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress



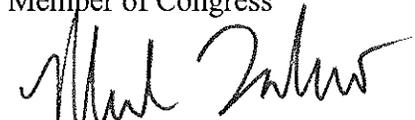
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

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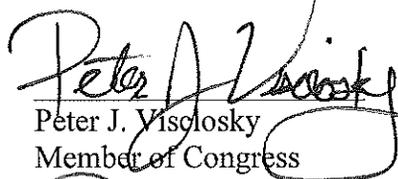
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



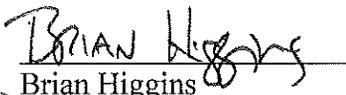
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



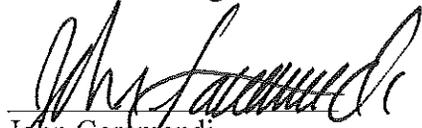
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



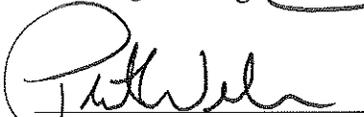
Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



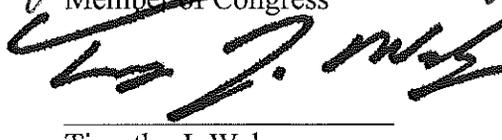
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



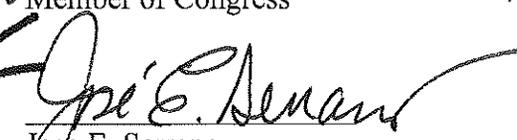
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



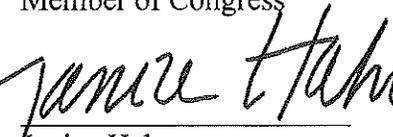
Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



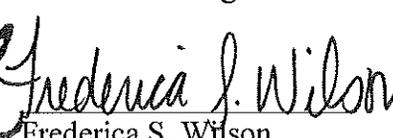
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



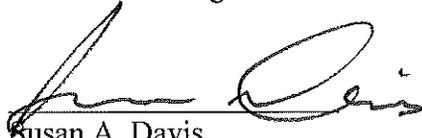
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



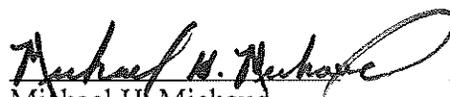
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



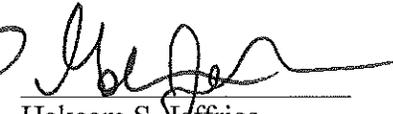
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress



Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



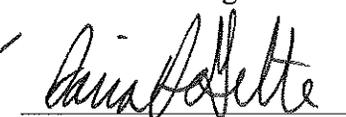
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



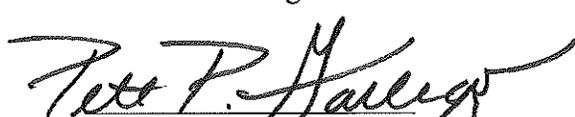
Steven A. Horsford  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Pete P. Gallego  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

*Bill Foster*

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

*Theodore E. Deutch*

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

*Lucille Roybal-Allard*

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

*Denny Heck*

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

*Alcee L. Hastings*

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

*Henry Cuellar*

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

*Alan Lowenthal*

Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

*Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan*

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

*Marcy Kaptur*

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

*Donald J. Payne, Jr.*

Donald J. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Peter A. DeFazio*

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

*Albio Sires*

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

*Raul M. Grijalva*

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

*Karen Bass*

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

*Carolyn McCarthy*

Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

*John C. Carney, Jr.*

John C. Carney, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Donna M. Christensen*

Donna M. Christensen  
Member of Congress

*Mike McIntyre*

Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress

*Matthew A. Cartwright*

Matthew A. Cartwright  
Member of Congress

*Jim Costa*

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

*Daniel Lipinski*

Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

*John D. Dingell*

John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress

*Richard M. Nolan*

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

*Ron Barber*

Ron Barber  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



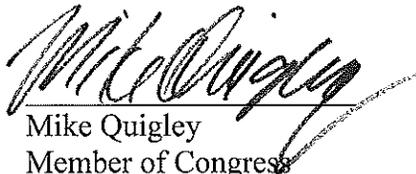
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



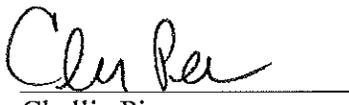
Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



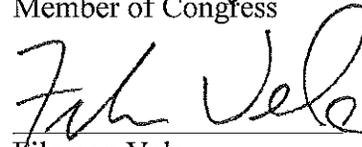
Ruben Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



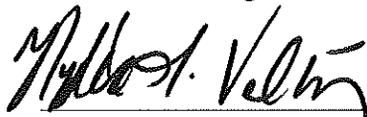
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



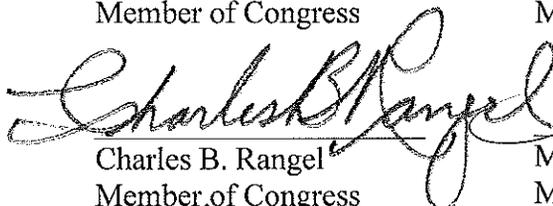
Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



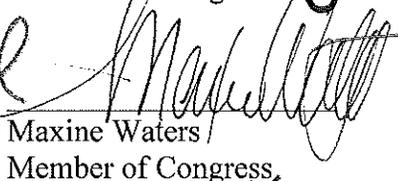
Nydia M. Velazquez  
Member of Congress



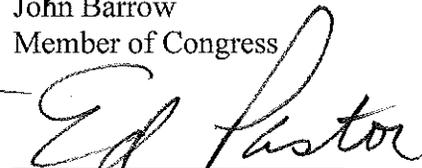
John Barrow  
Member of Congress



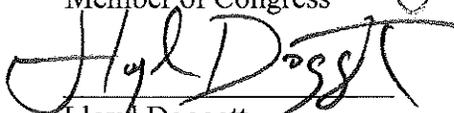
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



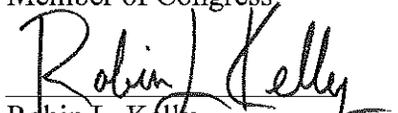
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress