



## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4302

June 29, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong support for Israel's right to defend itself. We believe that it is in our national security interest to unequivocally reiterate that the United States stands behind our longtime friend and ally. Further, we urge you to remain steadfast in the defense of Israel in the face of the international community's rush to unfairly judge and condemn Israel in international fora such as the United Nations Security Council. We urge you to continue to use U.S. influence and, if necessary, veto power to prevent any biased or one-sided resolutions from passing.

On May 31, after repeated warnings, Israeli forces intercepted a flotilla attempting to break through its naval blockade of Gaza. The blockade of Gaza was instituted to stop terrorists from smuggling weapons into Gaza to murder innocent civilians. Since Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has fired more than 10,000 rockets and mortars at Israel's civilian population. Acknowledging the seriousness of the problem, Egypt also initiated its own blockade of Gaza along the Rafah crossing in 2007.

Over the course of its blockade, Israeli forces have diverted nine such flotillas, all without incident. The same was true for five of the six ships in this flotilla. They were commandeered peacefully and directed to the Israeli port of Ashdod. However, those aboard the largest ship, the Mavi Marmara, violently resisted. As dramatic video depicts, the passengers on the ship attacked Israeli soldiers with clubs, metal rods, and iron bars as they attempted to board the ship. The soldiers were brutally beaten and one was even thrown off the top deck. With their lives threatened, Israeli forces used necessary force as an act of self-defense and of last resort.

The several dozen who attacked the Israeli soldiers were not peaceful aid workers, but extremists who sought to aid the Iran-backed terrorist Hamas regime in Gaza. Days before, as broadcast on al-Jazeera, they proclaimed their willingness to be martyrs for the destruction of Israel, revealing a sinister element of premeditated violence. Furthermore, as confirmed by the State Department and intelligence agencies around the world, the Turkish aid group that sent out the flotilla, İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH), has met with senior officials of recognized terrorist groups over the last three years.

If the flotilla had been truly intent on bringing aid to Gaza, it could have done that. Israeli officials repeatedly offered their ports to harbor the ships and disperse the aid so that it would not

go into the hands of corrupt Hamas officials but directly to the people living in Gaza. But the flotilla refused these overtures, instead revealing their intent to break the blockade and sail unchecked into Gaza. As you know, Hamas even refused the aid that was aboard the Mavi Marmara after it was inspected by Israeli officials.

The U.S. should make every effort to thwart international condemnation and focus the international community on the crimes of the Iran-backed Hamas leadership against Israel and the Palestinian people. As Israel faces increased threats, most recently from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which announced that it could provide a naval escort to any additional aid ships wishing to reach Gaza, the United States must continue to stand by Israel, one of our strongest allies.

We look forward to working with you on these vital issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship.

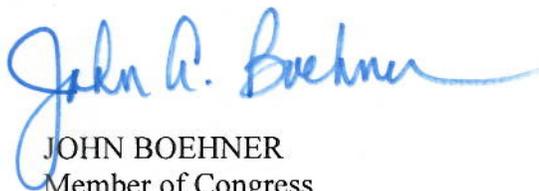
Sincerely,



TED POE  
Member of Congress



GARY PETERS  
Member of Congress



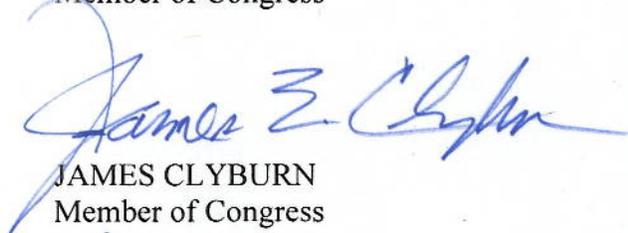
JOHN BOEHNER  
Member of Congress



STENY HOYER  
Member of Congress



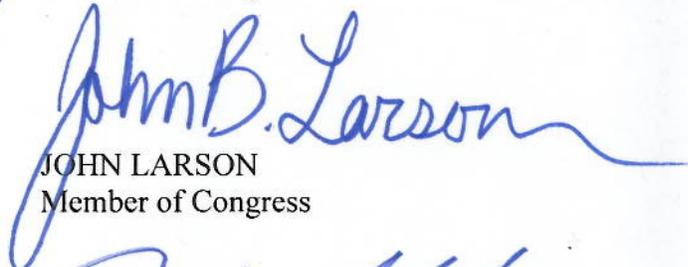
ERIC CANTOR  
Member of Congress



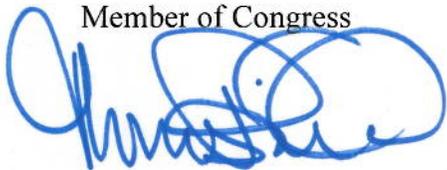
JAMES CLYBURN  
Member of Congress



MIKE PENCE  
Member of Congress



JOHN LARSON  
Member of Congress

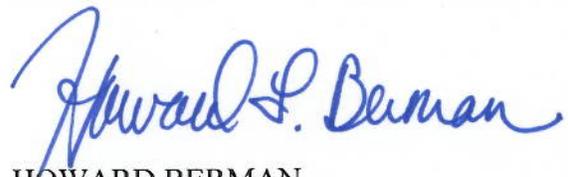


TOM PRICE  
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress

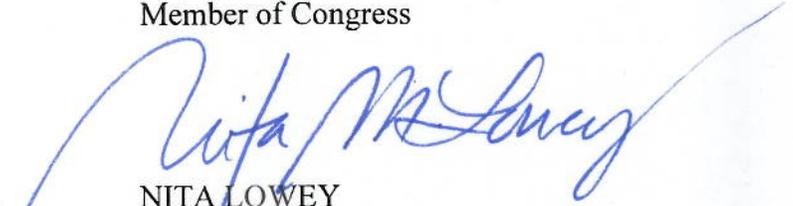
  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Member of Congress

  
HOWARD BERMAN  
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DAN BURTON  
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GARY ACKERMAN  
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ELTON GALLEGLY  
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SHELLEY BERKLEY  
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DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
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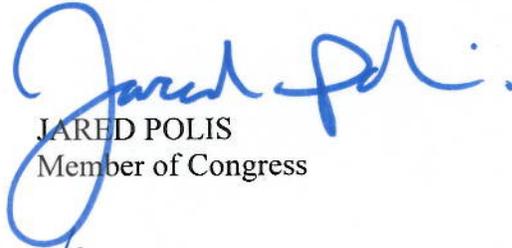
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ADAM PUTNAM  
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JARED POLIS  
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ADRIAN SMITH  
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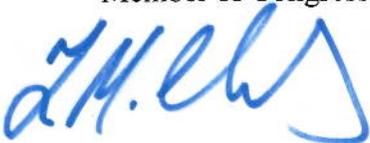
JIM MARSHALL  
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BILL CASSIDY  
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AARON SCHOCK  
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BRETT GUTHRIE  
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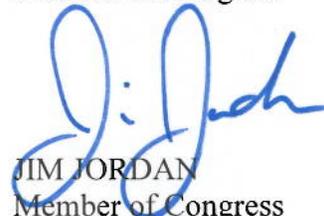
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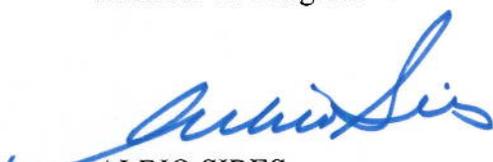
  
HARRY TEAGUE  
Member of Congress

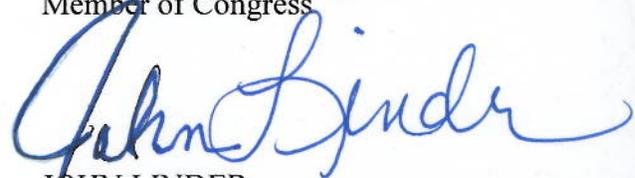
  
CHARLES DENT  
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DEVIN NUNES  
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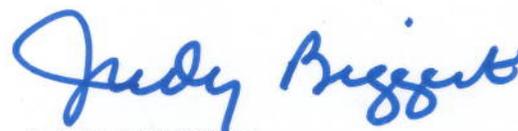
  
ALBIO SIRES  
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Member of Congress



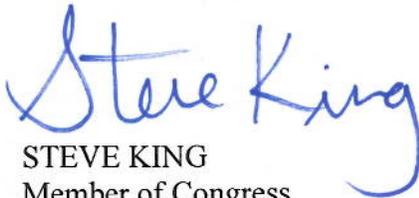
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER  
Member of Congress



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GUS BILIRAKIS  
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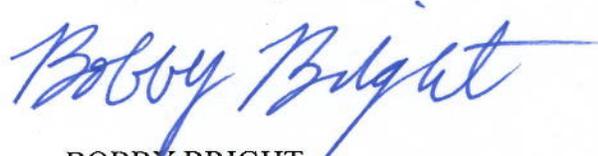
STEVE KING  
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Member of Congress



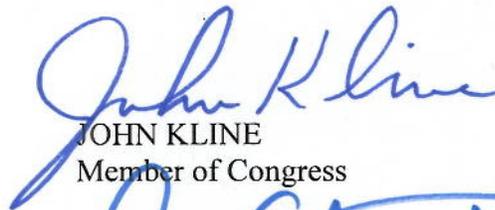
DOC HASTINGS  
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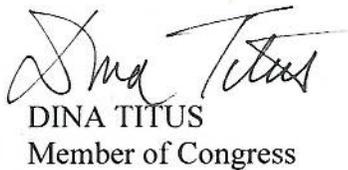
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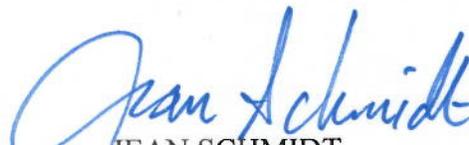
  
LINCOLN DAVIS  
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LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART  
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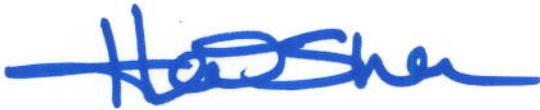
  
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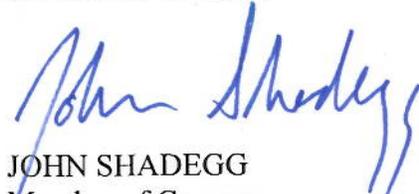
  
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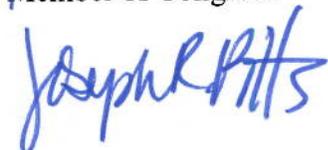
  
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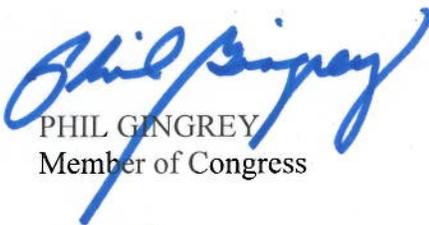
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GLENN THOMPSON  
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DEAN HELLER  
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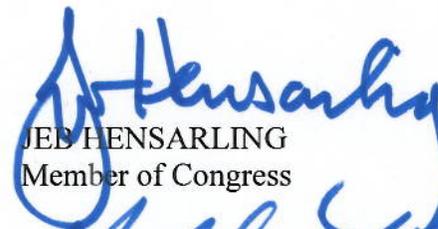
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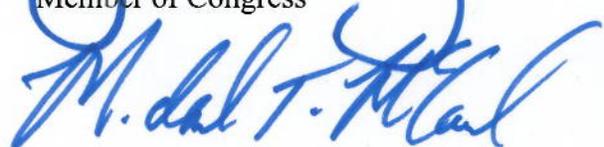
PAUL TONKO  
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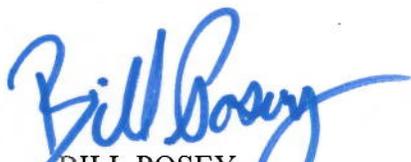
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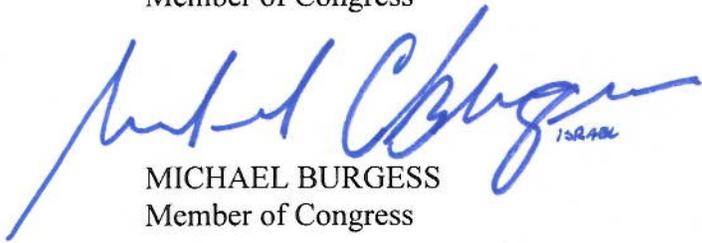
  
CHARLES WILSON  
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KENNY MARCHANT  
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CANDICE MILLER  
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SUE MYRICK  
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MIKE THOMPSON  
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DAVID DREIER  
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AL GREEN  
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE  
Member of Congress



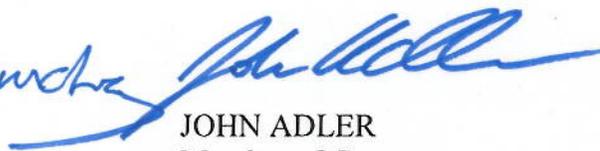
SUZANNE KOSMAS  
Member of Congress



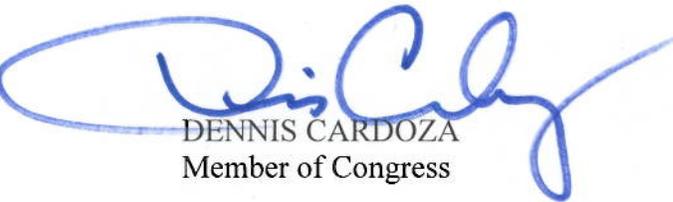
JEFF FLAKE  
Member of Congress



LINDA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress



JOHN ADLER  
Member of Congress



DENNIS CARDOZA  
Member of Congress



ALLEN BOYD  
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BETSY MARKEY  
Member of Congress



VIRGINIA FOXX  
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Member of Congress

  
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS  
Member of Congress

  
BILL FOSTER  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN SPRATT  
Member of Congress

  
MARK SCHAUER  
Member of Congress



HARRY MITCHELL  
Member of Congress

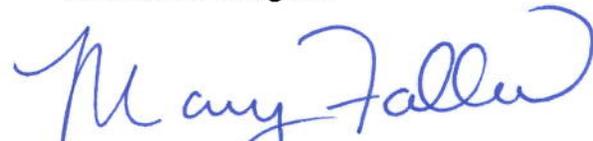
  
SAM GRAVES  
Member of Congress

  
TIM RYAN  
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RANDY NEUGEBAUER  
Member of Congress

  
LEONARD BOSWELL  
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MARY FALLIN  
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ZACH WAMP  
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BEN CHANDLER  
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MARTIN HEINRICH  
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JOHN CAMPBELL  
Member of Congress



MIKE COFFMAN  
Member of Congress



MARCIA FUDGE  
Member of Congress



JOHN CULBERSON  
Member of Congress



JOHN BOCCIERI  
Member of Congress



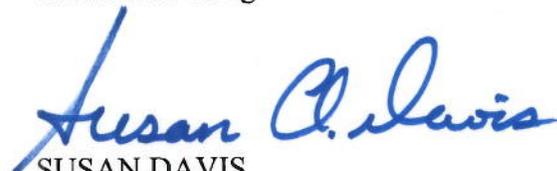
WALT MINNICK  
Member of Congress



JOHN BOOZMAN  
Member of Congress



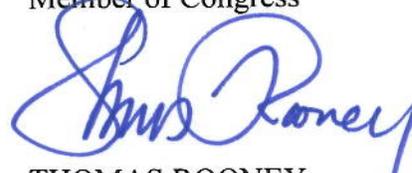
KEVIN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



MIKE CONAWAY  
Member of Congress



THOMAS ROONEY  
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JEFF FORTENBERRY  
Member of Congress



JIM COOPER  
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DEBBIE HALVORSON  
Member of Congress



ALAN GRAYSON  
Member of Congress



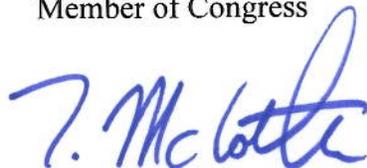
PATRICK MURPHY  
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO  
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DAN MAFFEI  
Member of Congress



THADDEUS MCCOTTER  
Member of Congress



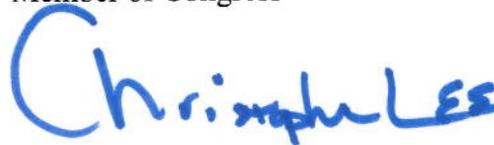
STEVE AUSTRIA  
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DENNIS MOORE  
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GABRIELLE GIFFORDS  
Member of Congress

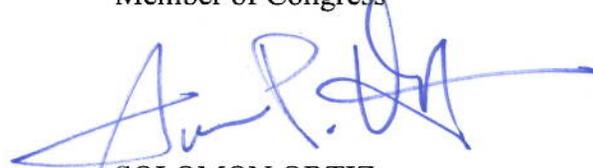
  
DAVID REICHERT  
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MIKE TURNER  
Member of Congress

  
ANTHONY WEINER  
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DALE KILDEE  
Member of Congress

  
JOE BARTON  
Member of Congress

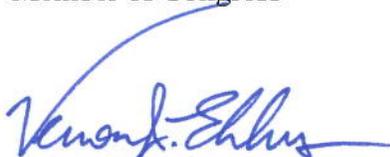
  
SOLOMON ORTIZ  
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DON YOUNG  
Member of Congress

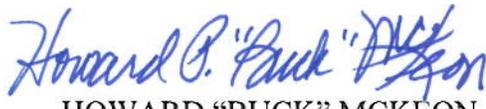
  
JERRY LEWIS  
Member of Congress

  
ANH "JOSEPH" CAO  
Member of Congress

  
TOM GRAVES  
Member of Congress

  
VERNON EHLERS  
Member of Congress

  
FRED UPTON  
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HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON  
Member of Congress

  
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HENRY WAXMAN  
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RICHARD NEAL  
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MAC THORBERRY  
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LAURA RICHARDSON  
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STEVE BUYER  
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PETE SESSIONS  
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ELIJAH CUMMINGS  
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JO BONNER  
Member of Congress



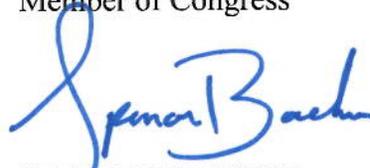
BOB GOODLATTE  
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TED DEUTCH  
Member of Congress



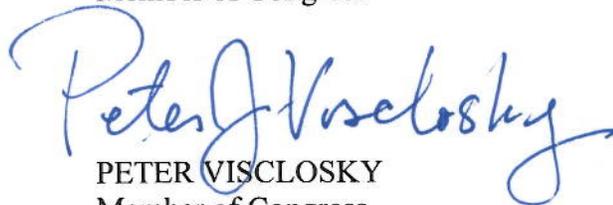
JOE BACA  
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SPENCER BACHUS  
Member of Congress



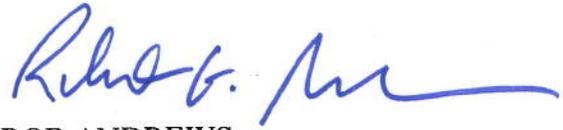
BARNEY FRANK  
Member of Congress



PETER VISCLOSKY  
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DANIEL LUNGREN  
Member of Congress



ROB ANDREWS  
Member of Congress



LUIS GUITTERREZ  
Member of Congress



STEVEN ROTHMAN  
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BART GORDON  
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FRANK LUCAS  
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MIKE SIMPSON  
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JOHN MICA  
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STEVEN LATOURETTE  
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LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
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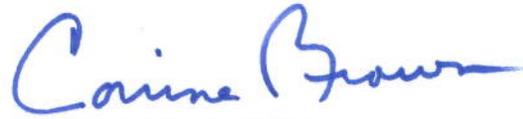
LEE TERRY  
Member of Congress



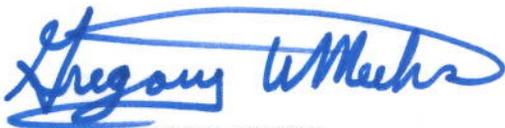
CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress



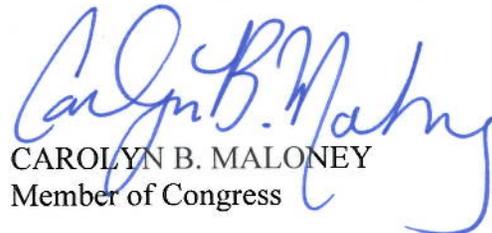
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN  
Member of Congress



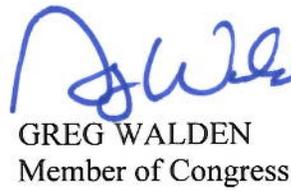
GREGORY MEEKS  
Member of Congress



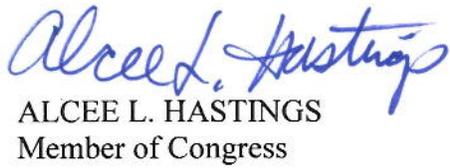
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress



GARY MILLER  
Member of Congress



GREG WALDEN  
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



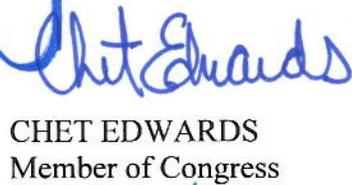
BILL OWENS  
Member of Congress



JANICE SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON  
Member of Congress



CHET EDWARDS  
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CLIFF STEARNS  
Member of Congress



GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress



JANE HARMAN  
Member of Congress



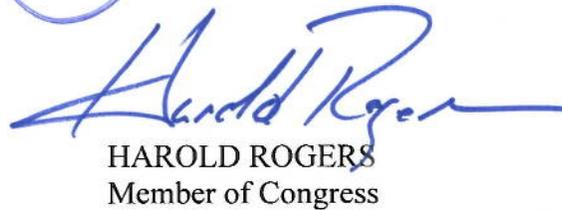
GREGG HARPER  
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress



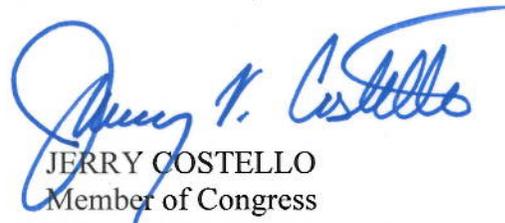
RALPH HALL  
Member of Congress



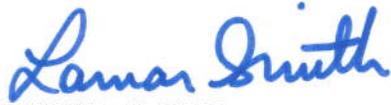
HAROLD ROGERS  
Member of Congress



C.W. BILL YOUNG  
Member of Congress



JERRY COSTELLO  
Member of Congress



LAMAR SMITH  
Member of Congress



GEORGE RADANOVICH  
Member of Congress



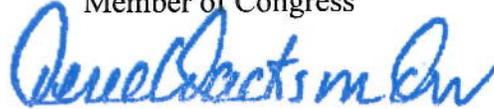
ROSCOE BARTLETT  
Member of Congress



ROSA DELAURO  
Member of Congress



TIM HOLDEN  
Member of Congress



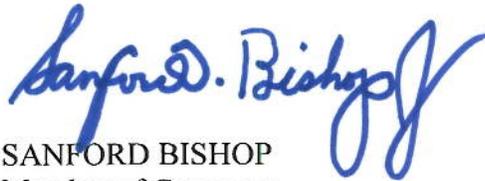
JESSE JACKSON  
Member of Congress



MARK CRITZ  
Member of Congress



FRANK LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress



SANFORD BISHOP  
Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES  
Member of Congress



JIM MATHESON  
Member of Congress



TRENT FRANKS  
Member of Congress



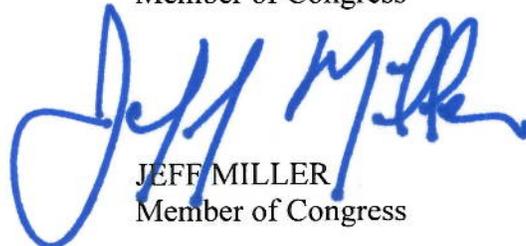
MIKE ROSS  
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE  
Member of Congress



J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress



JEFF MILLER  
Member of Congress

  
JO ANN EMERSON  
Member of Congress

  
TODD TIAHRT  
Member of Congress

  
RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN  
Member of Congress

  
SHELLY MOORE CAPITO  
Member of Congress

  
ADAM SCHIFF  
Member of Congress

  
DENNY REHBERG  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES SENSENBRENNER  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress

  
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER  
Member of Congress

  
TODD PLATTS  
Member of Congress

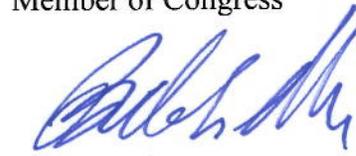
  
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress

  
TOM COLE  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress

  
HOWARD COBLE  
Member of Congress

  
LOUISE SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress

  
BOBBY L. RUSH  
Member of Congress

Steve Kagen MD

STEVEN KAGEN  
Member of Congress

Brad Miller

BRAD MILLER  
Member of Congress

Mike Castle

MICHAEL CASTLE  
Member of Congress

Baron Hill

BARON HILL  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin

SANDER LEVIN  
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

CHARLES RANGEL  
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader

KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes

PAUL HODES  
Member of Congress

Bob Etheridge

BOB ETHERIDGE  
Member of Congress

Robert Wittman

ROBERT WITTMAN  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell Jr

BILL PASCRELL  
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey

EDWARD MARKEY  
Member of Congress

Scott Murphy

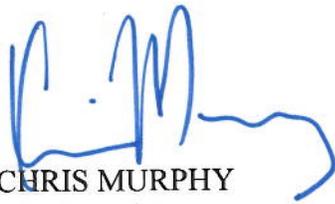
SCOTT MURPHY  
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns

EDOLPHUS TOWNS  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

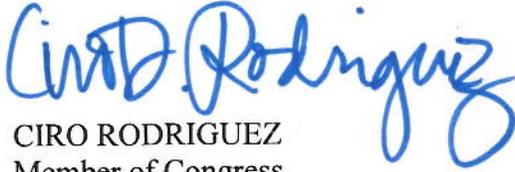
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



CHRIS MURPHY  
Member of Congress



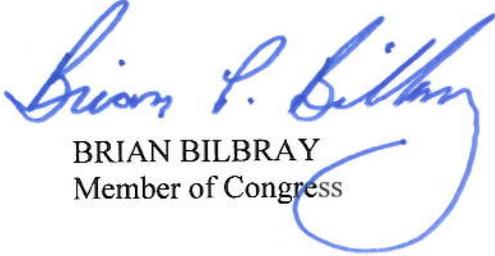
BOBBY SCOTT  
Member of Congress



CIRO RODRIGUEZ  
Member of Congress



RUBEN HINOJOSA  
Member of Congress



BRIAN BILBRAY  
Member of Congress



GINNY BROWN-WAITE  
Member of Congress



MARY JO KILROY  
Member of Congress



BENNIE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress