

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President,

Darfur has not gone away. As you know, the crisis has spread to other parts of Sudan, particularly South Kordofan and Blue Nile, as lifesaving aid has been blocked and aerial bombardments have targeted civilians and their crops exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis. Across Sudan severe human rights abuses continue.

Public and media attention may have waned, but the suffering of civilians has not. We urge you to enhance the U.S. approach to this conflict, and re-prioritize peace, accountability, and protection of civilians in Sudan in your last year in office.

We appreciate the efforts you have made with the Sudanese government to address and resolve the crisis in South Sudan, and the recent opening of Sudanese southern borders is a welcome development. Such engagement, valuable on its own merits, must not preclude or overshadow the need for strong U.S. leadership and advocacy on the grave abuses and humanitarian crisis that persist and continue to worsen inside Sudan itself.

Today, over 5 million people are in need of life-saving aid across Sudan including at least 1.5 million who have been continually displaced since the Darfur genocide began in 2003. Violence has intensified in recent years, with at least half a million people newly displaced in the last two years. USAID's Famine Early Warning System reports almost 4 million people at crisis levels of food insecurity and warns of increased food insecurity in 2016. In Darfur, U.N. agencies report extreme levels of child malnutrition, and in some parts of South Kordofan, food insecurity may reach emergency levels, just one level below famine. While we welcome the fact that the United States remains the largest suppliers of humanitarian aid to Sudan, those efforts are hollow if that aid cannot get to the people who need it most, or if the conflict continues to rage on indefinitely.

The Government of Sudan is directly responsible, bombing civilian targets and blocking or delaying both life-saving aid and supplies for UN peacekeepers. This intransigence is well documented. Violations of UN Security Council Resolutions including the ongoing bombing of civilians are consistently reported by the UN Panel of Experts. Nuba Reports, a local group of journalists reporting from within Sudan, has documented over 4,000 bombs dropped on civilian targets in South Kordofan and Blue Nile since 2012.

The United States has a number of ways that it can help influence the behavior of the Sudanese regime through the use of financial tools at its disposal. We urge the Obama

Administration to enhance the current sanctions regime so that is focused to impact the calculations of the Sudanese regime's top-level officials, by targeting top level officials, financial institutions and other facilitators of the conflict. Similarly, the U.S. should utilize the good relations that the U.S has with countries in the Arab world that support Khartoum financially, to pressure countries like Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are investing in Sudan and lending the regime money, to turn off the spigot until true reform and change occurs on the ground.

Additionally, we urge the Administration to counter gold as a major source of funding for the conflict in Sudan, allowing it to continue its atrocities. Please prioritize efforts to encourage industry associations to designate Sudan's gold as conflict-affected. Gold has emerged as a top revenue earner for the Sudanese government after the secession of South Sudan deprived the regime of oil proceeds. The bulk of this gold is mined in the conflict region of Darfur and its extraction bears the hallmarks of grave human rights abuses. Penalizing the trade in Sudanese gold can help deprive the regime of a major source of revenue for its war machinery.

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir continues to travel with near impunity despite arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. This includes visits to India, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa with no apparent consequences. The lack of accountability has emboldened the Government of Sudan. Despite the documented uptick in violence and displacement the Government of Sudan has announced plans for dismantling displacement camps and has been demanding the removal of UN peacekeepers.

The United States can make a difference in Sudan by making it more difficult for the regime to continue to wage war against its own population. With sustained urgent attention and multilateral efforts, the United States can significantly contribute toward peace, accountability, and protection of civilians in Sudan. Ending the genocide in Darfur is an issue you championed as a Senator and as you came into office as President.

The current situation in Darfur and throughout Sudan requires sustained efforts at the very highest level of our government. Now, as much as ever, the people of Sudan need you to be a champion today.

Sincerely,



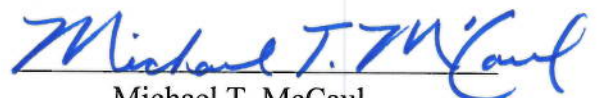
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



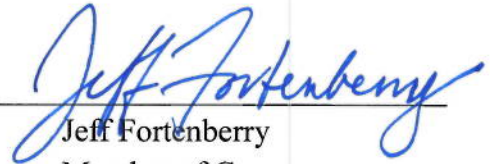
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



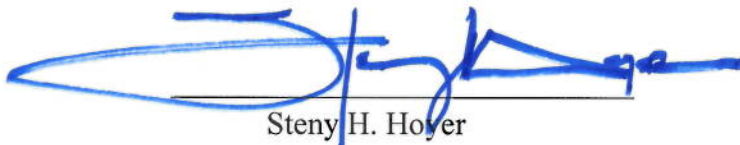
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



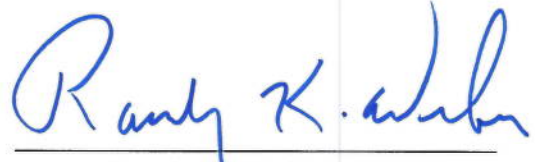
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



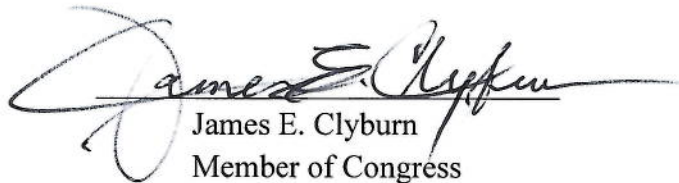
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



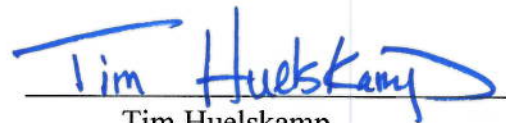
Steny H. Hoyer
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Randy K. Weber
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James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



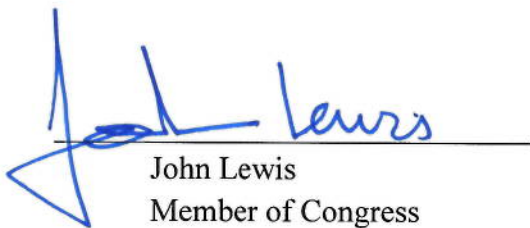
Tim Huelskamp
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Eliot L. Engel
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Bill Flores
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John Lewis
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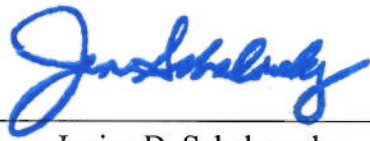
Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



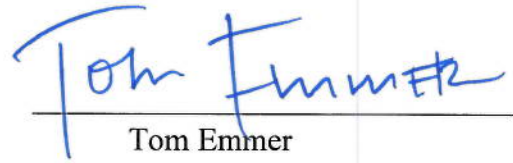
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



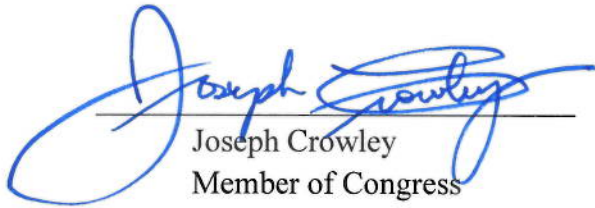
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



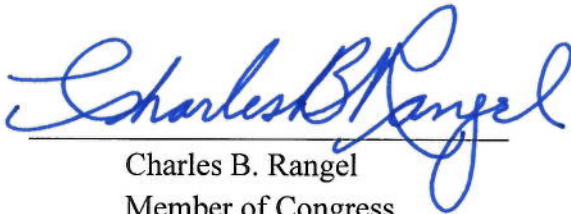
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



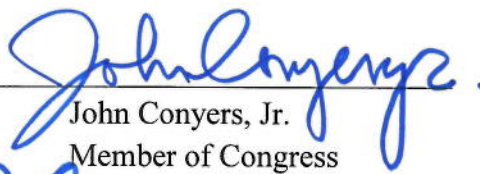
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
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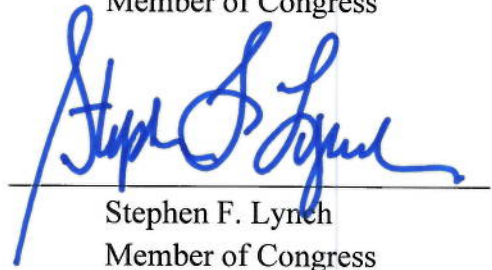
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



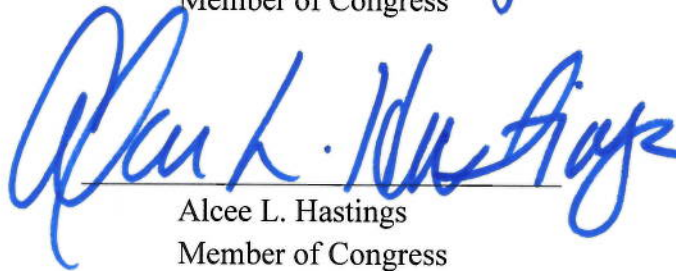
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



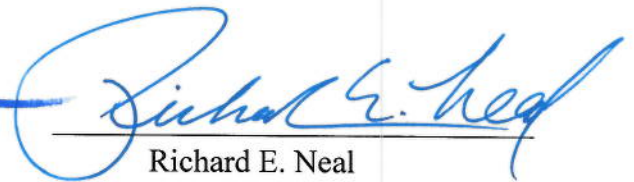
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



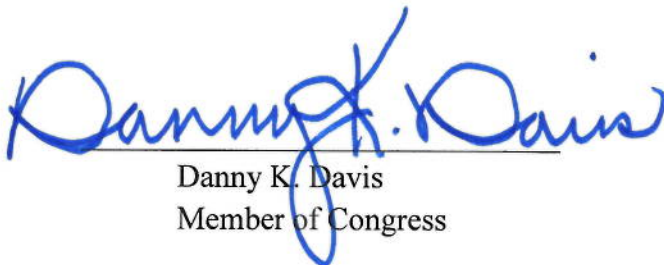
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



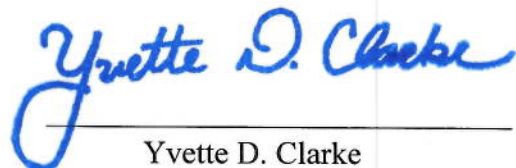
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



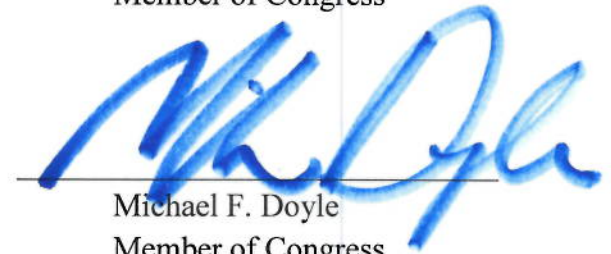
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



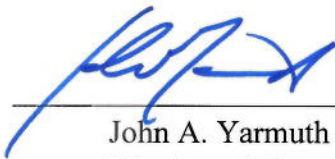
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



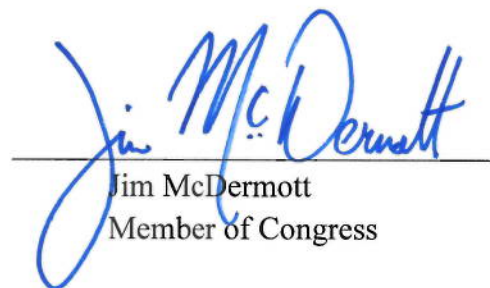
Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



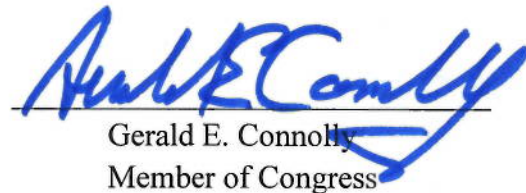
André Carson
Member of Congress



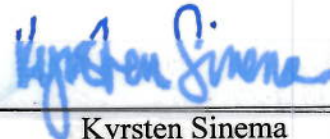
Jim McDermott
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Peter Welch
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Kyrsten Sinema
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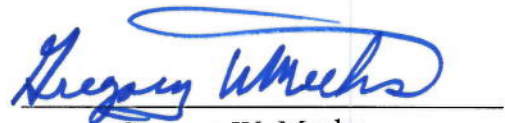


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
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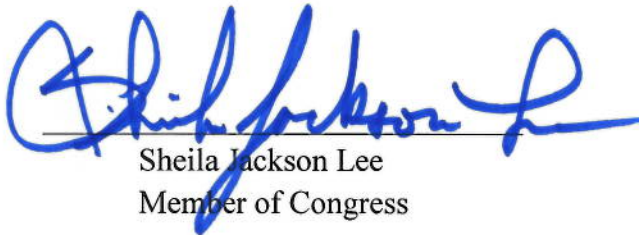
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



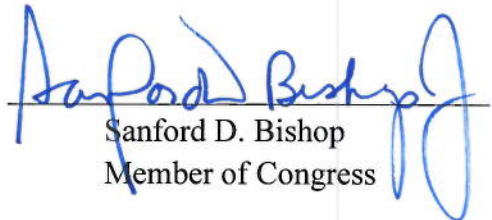
Carolyn B. Maloney
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Robin L. Kelly
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
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Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



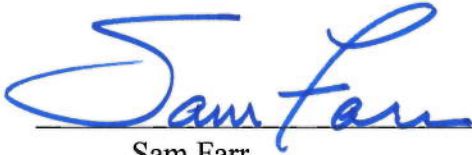
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



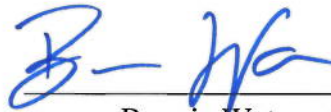
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



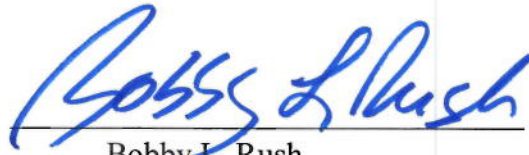
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



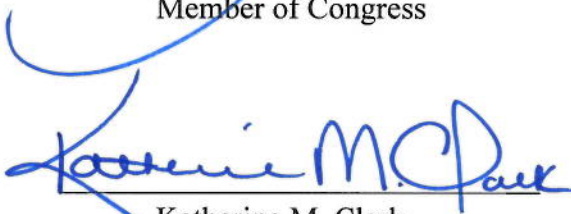
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



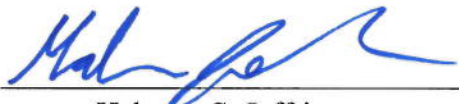
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



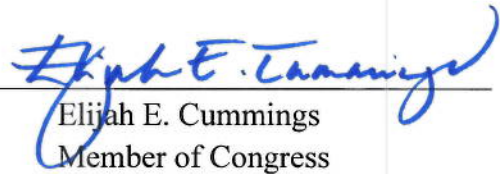
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



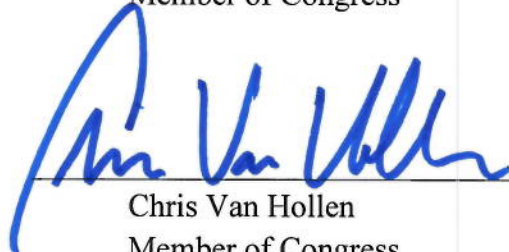
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
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Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress




Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



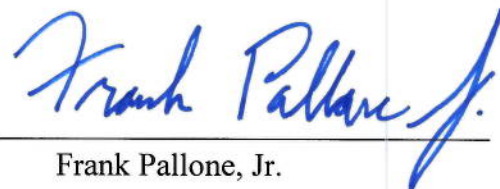
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



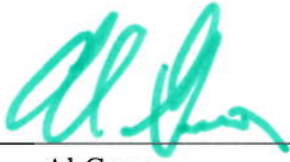
David Scott
Member of Congress



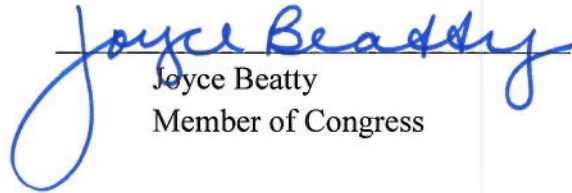
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



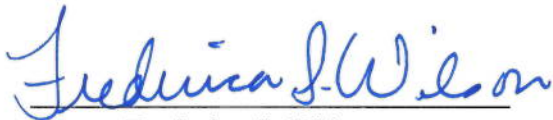
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



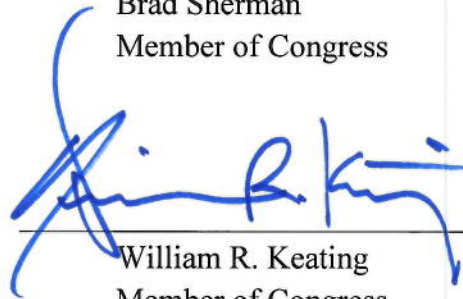
Frederica S. Wilson
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Brad Sherman
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Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



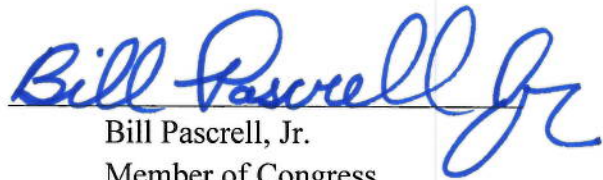
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



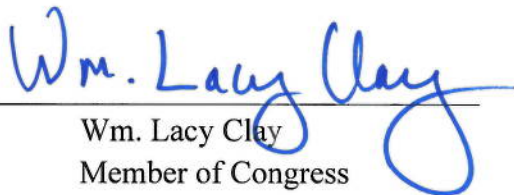
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



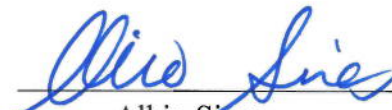
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



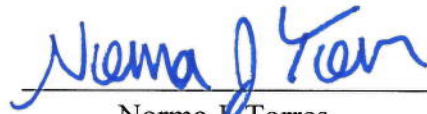
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



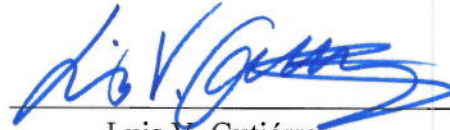
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



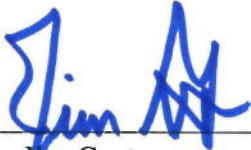
Theodore E. Deutch
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Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



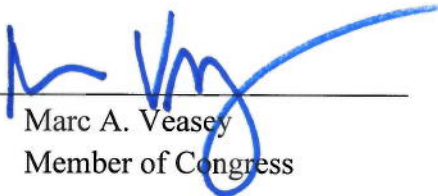
Luis V. Gutiérrez
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Jim Costa
Member of Congress



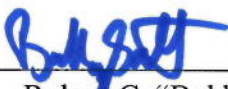
Kathleen M. Rice
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Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



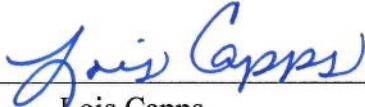
Matt Cartwright
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



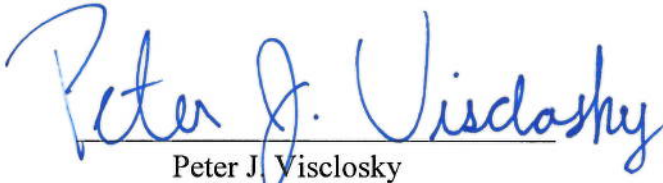
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



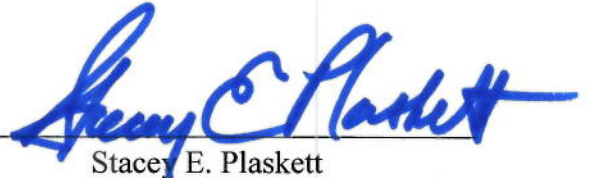
James R. Langevin
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
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Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



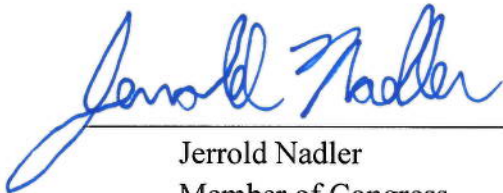
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress




Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



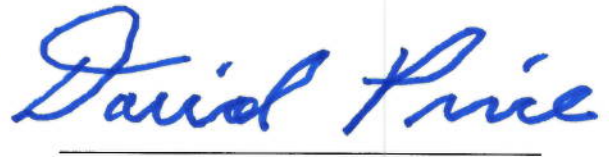
Jerrold Nadler
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Adam B. Schiff
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John Garamendi
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David E. Price
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John K. Delaney
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Alma S. Adams
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Judy Chu
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Marcia L. Fudge
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