

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chair  
Science, State, Justice and Commerce  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-309 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
Ranking Member  
Science, State, Justice and Commerce  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2006

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

We respectfully urge the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee to assert its oversight role regarding the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Fiscal Year 2007 budget request. EEOC's budget request is approximately eight million dollars less than its Fiscal Year 2006 request, a four million drop from the budget EEOC has received over the past two years. We are writing to request that the subcommittee increase funds for frontline staffing rather than continuing to invest in controversial aspects of its field restructuring plan.

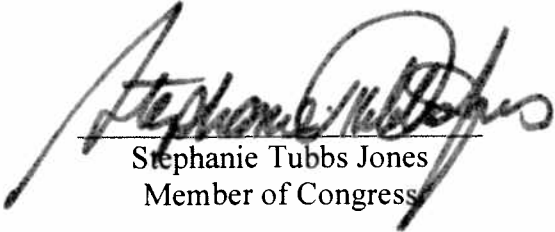
Since 2001, EEOC has lost over 575 employees, 20 percent of its workforce. Its field restructuring plan expands the jurisdictions of many offices that serve our constituents. Unfortunately, it has not supplied adequate staffing to assist with the additional workload. As a result, the number of cases EEOC is resolving is decreasing. EEOC's FY '07 budget request concedes that backlog, also known as "pending inventory," will grow "as a result of staff attrition." EEOC's own projections contend that their private sector charges backlog will rise from 33,562 in FY '05 to 47,516 in FY '07. EEOC cannot continue to shortchange its frontline resources.

We also urge the Subcommittee to retain oversight language in the appropriations bill (*"the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations have been notified of such provisions"*). This language has been critical in allowing an opportunity for feedback from the public, civil rights groups as well as Congress. The oversight language remains essential as the commission continues to make changes to the field reorganization plan with respect to the organization of its field offices and its Headquarters.

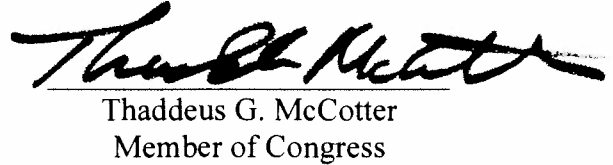
Lastly, we ask that you reconsider allowing additional funding toward EEOC's bid to make its privatized call center permanent, particularly in light of EEOC's diminished budget request. For 40 years prior to the Pearson contract, questions from the public were handled by senior federal investigators. In place of local community-based experienced personnel, calls are being handled nationwide by distant operators with minimal on-the-job training.

The GAO study commissioned by your subcommittee found that EEOC had “no organized approach” in considering all restructuring options. Based on their conclusions, it would seem ill-advised to continually fund this plan as implemented. We are requesting simply that Congress provide the necessary funding for EEOC to get the job done right as well as help ensure the agency utilize its resources in the most cost-effective manner possible.

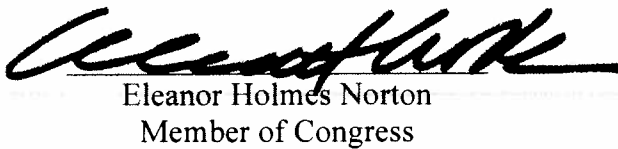
Sincerely,



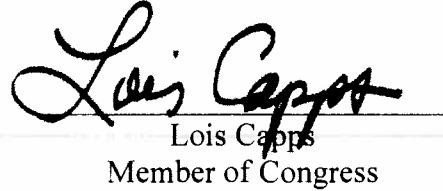
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress



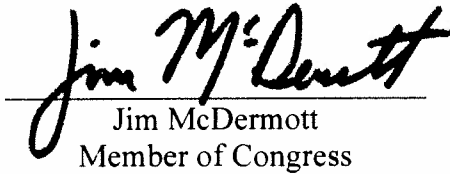
Thaddeus G. McCotter  
Member of Congress



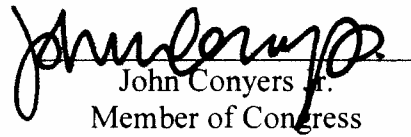
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



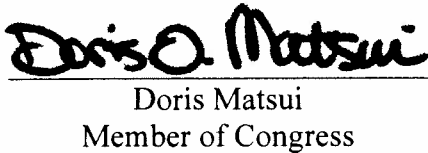
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



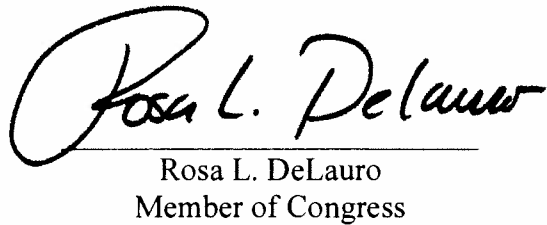
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



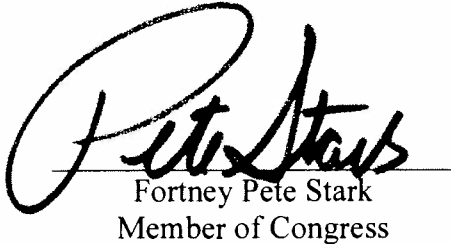
John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress



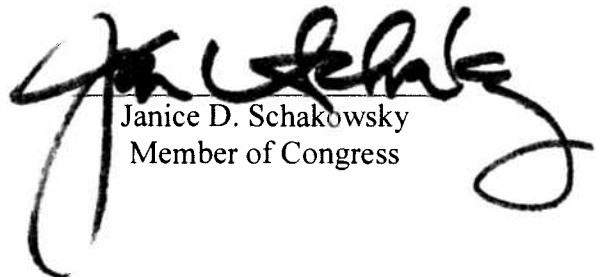
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



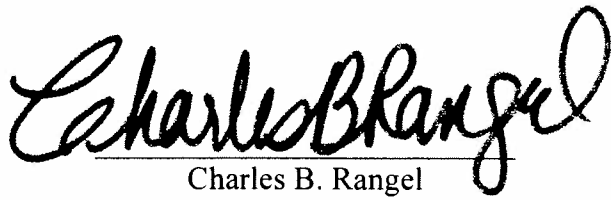
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



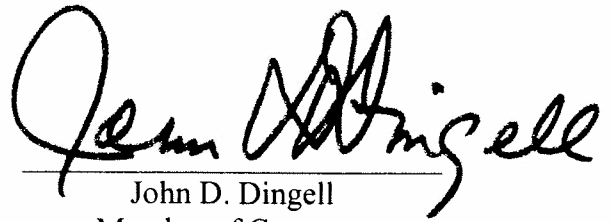
Fortney Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



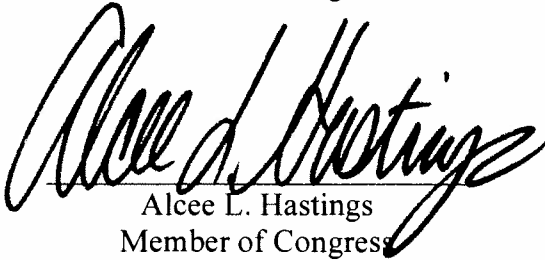
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



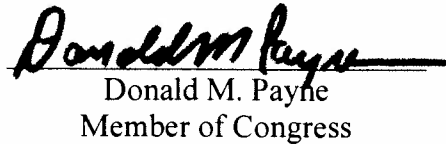
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



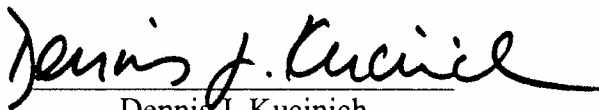
John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress



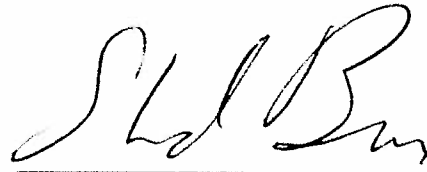
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



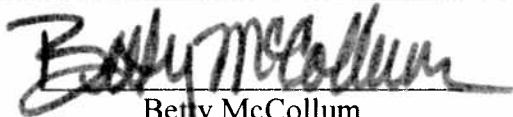
Donald M. Payne  
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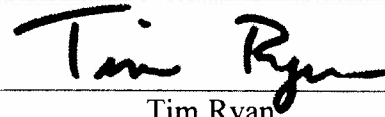
Dennis J. Kucinich  
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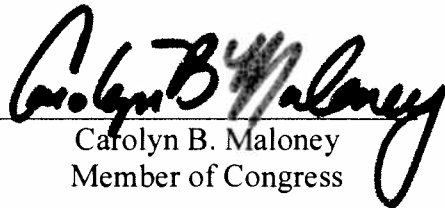
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress



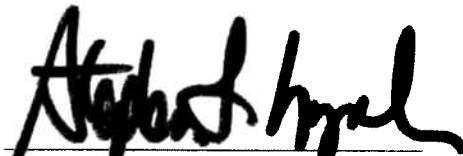
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



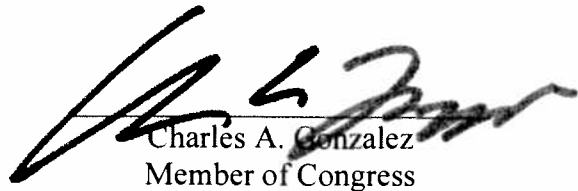
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



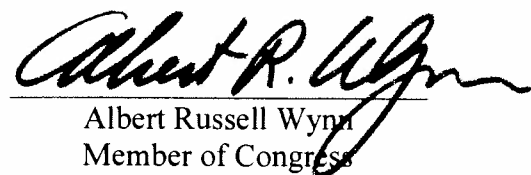
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Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

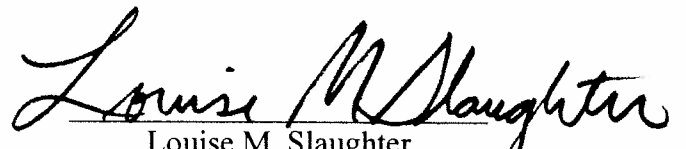



Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress

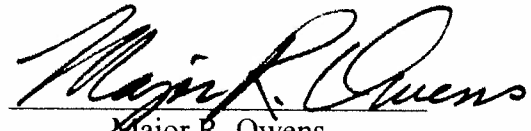


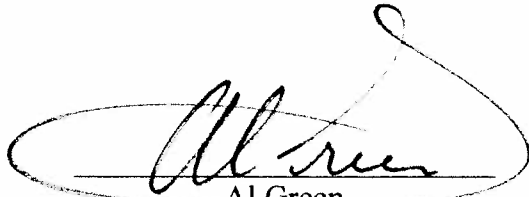
Albert Russell Wynn  
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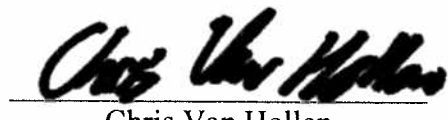
  
Barbara Lee  
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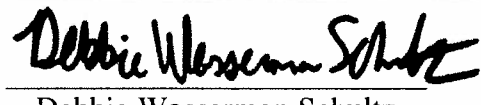
  
Louise M. Slaughter  
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Tammy Baldwin  
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Major R. Owens  
Member of Congress


  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

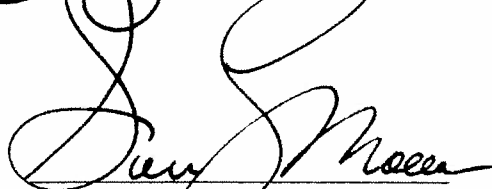
  
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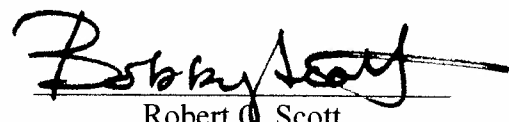
  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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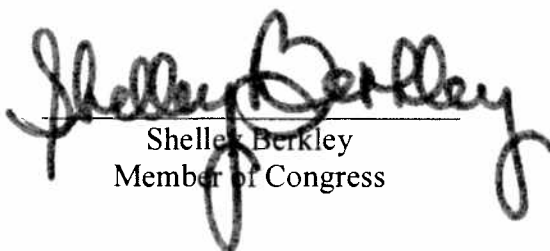
  
Barney Frank  
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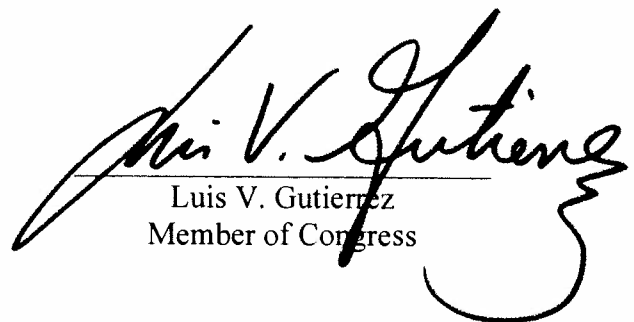
  
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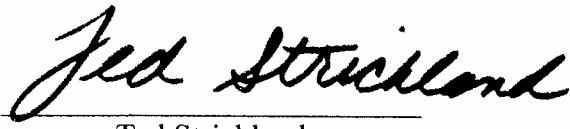
  
Martin Olav Sabo  
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Gwen Moore  
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Robert C. Scott  
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Shelley Berkley  
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Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



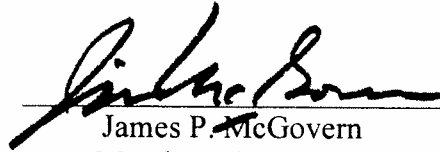
Ted Strickland  
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William D. Delahunt  
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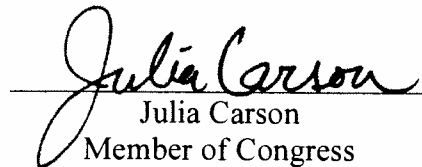
Bart Stupak  
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James P. McGovern  
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Diana DeGette  
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Julia Carson  
Member of Congress




Dale E. Kildee  
Member of Congress



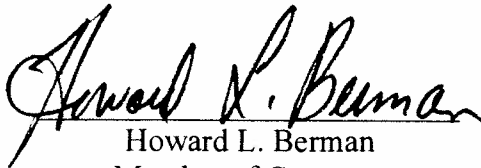
Ron Kind  
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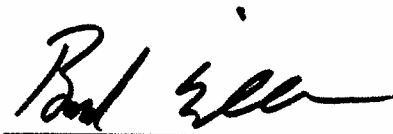
Michael M. Honda  
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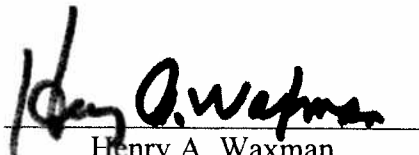
William Lacy Clay  
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Howard L. Berman  
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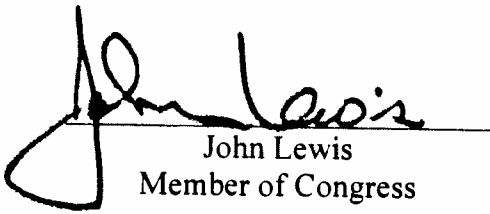
Brad Miller  
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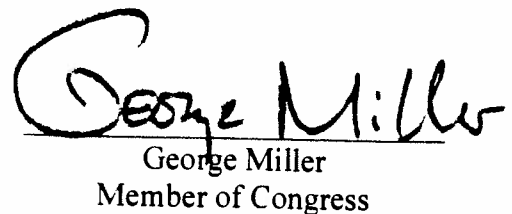


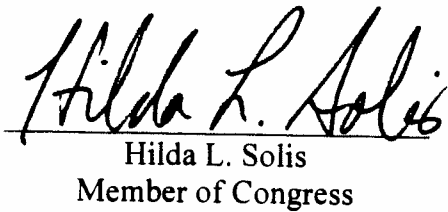
Henry A. Waxman  
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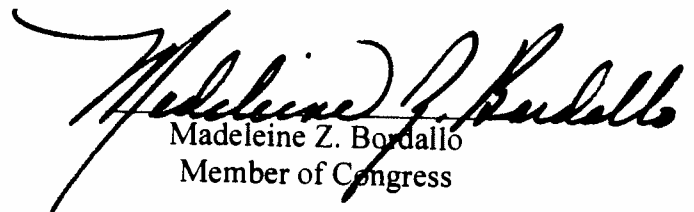


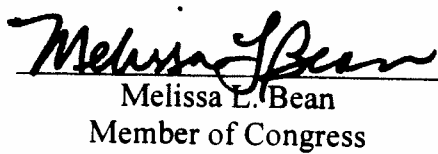
Eudolphus Towns  
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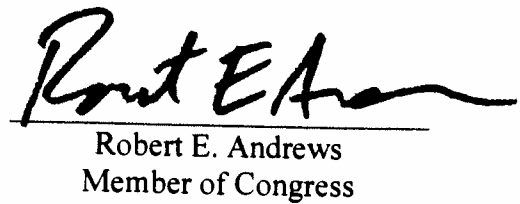
  
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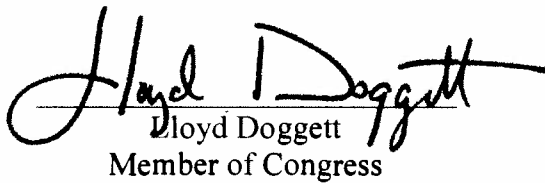
  
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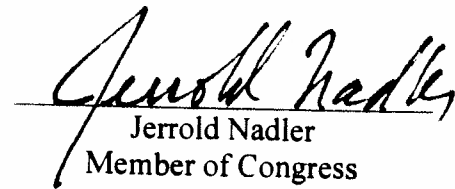
  
Hilda L. Solis  
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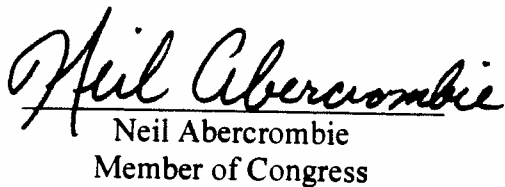
  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
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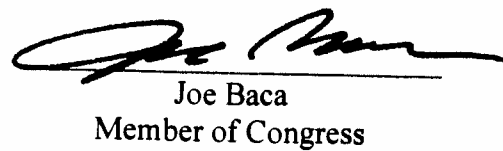
  
Melissa L. Bean  
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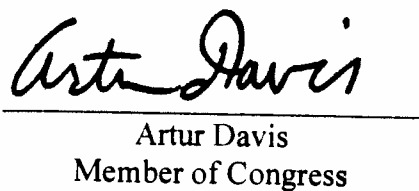
  
Robert E. Andrews  
Member of Congress

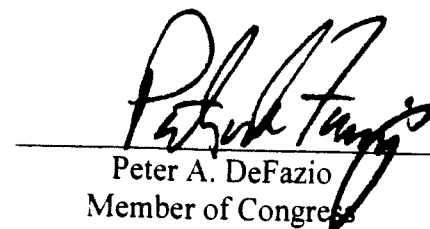
  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

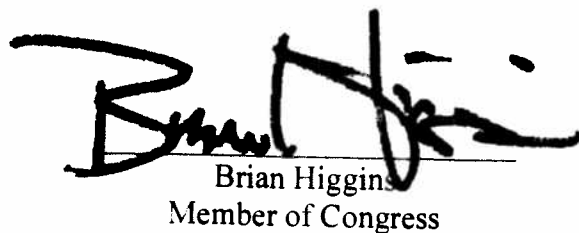
  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

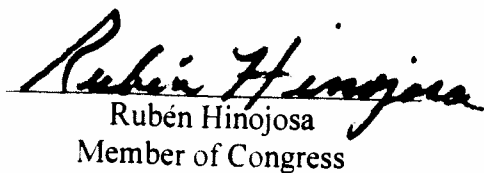
  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

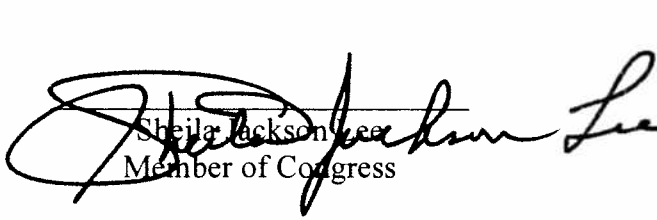
  
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress

  
Artur Davis  
Member of Congress

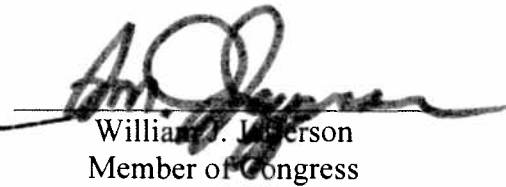
  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

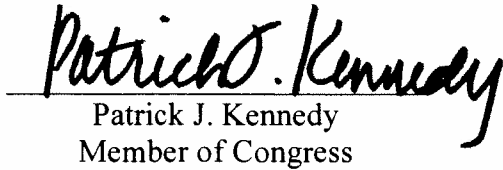
  
Rubén Hinojosa  
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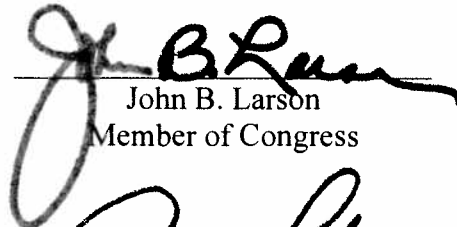
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



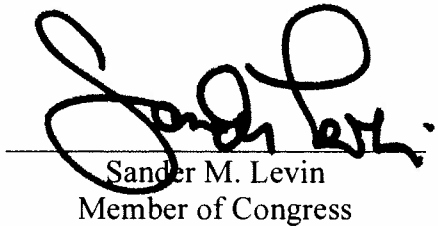
William J. Lawson  
Member of Congress



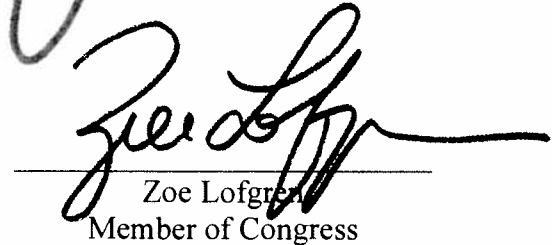
Patrick J. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



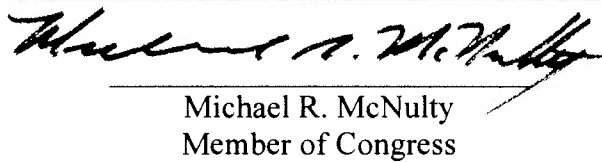
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



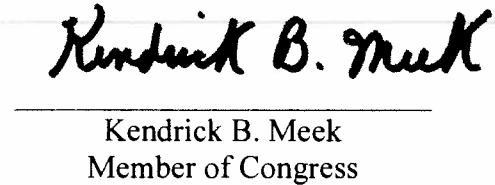
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



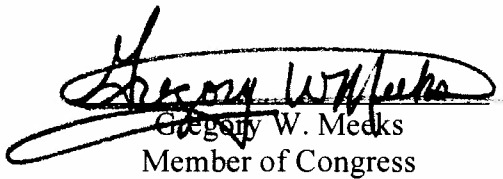
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



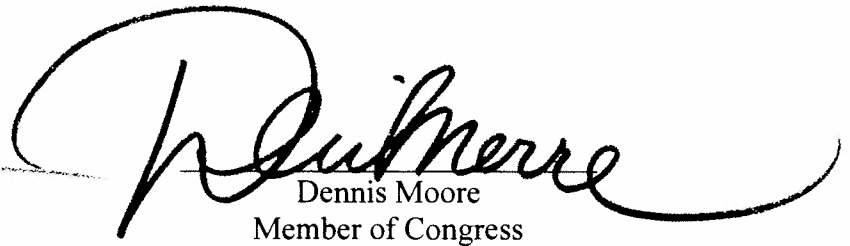
Michael R. McNulty  
Member of Congress



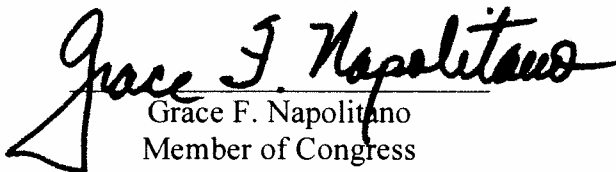
Kendrick B. Meek  
Member of Congress



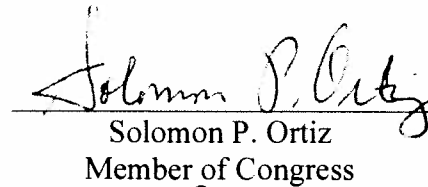
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



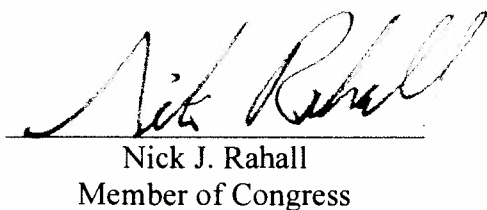
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



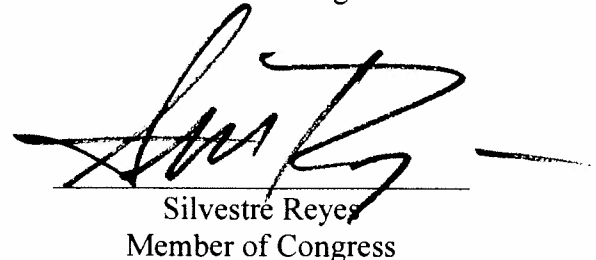
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Solomon P. Ortiz  
Member of Congress



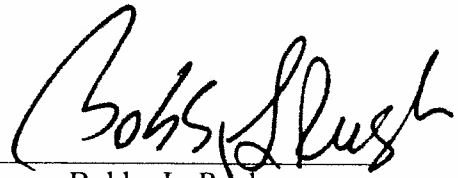
Nick J. Rahall  
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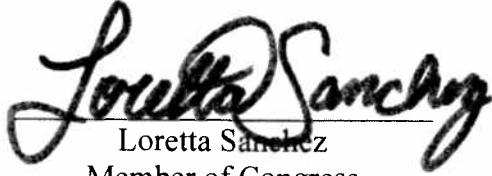
Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppberger  
Member of Congress



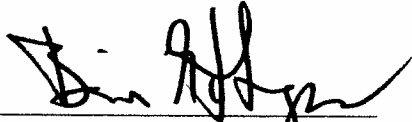
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



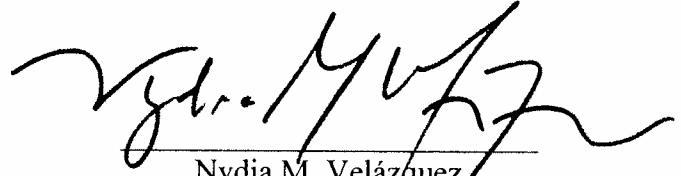
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



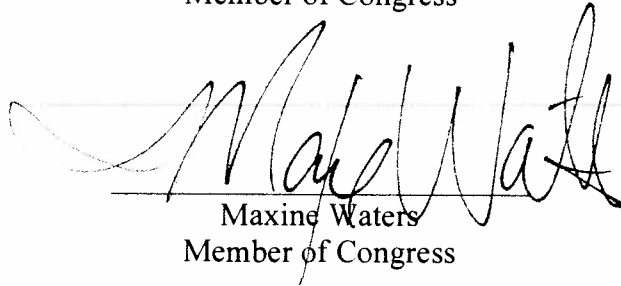
Ellen Tauscher  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



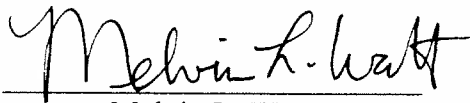
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



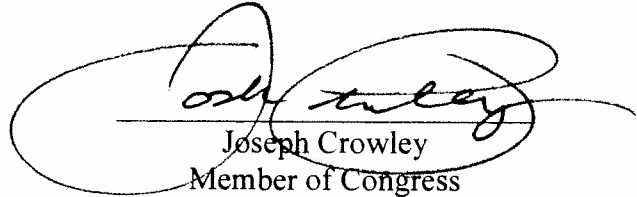
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



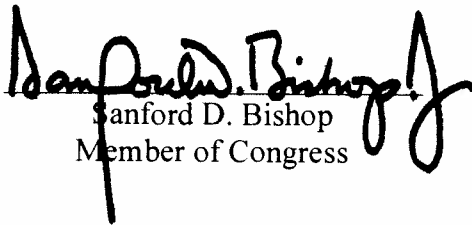
Diane E. Watson  
Member of Congress



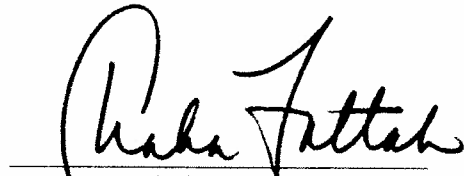
Melvin L. Watt  
Member of Congress



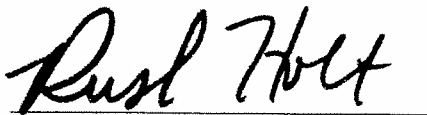
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



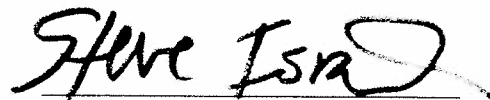
Sanford D. Bishop  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

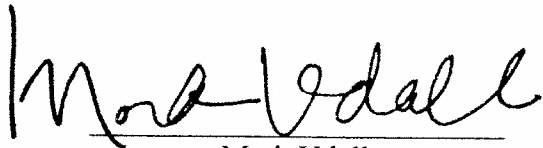


Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

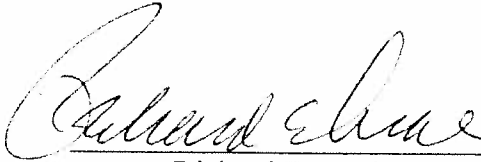




Mark Udall  
Member of Congress



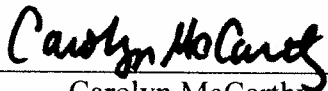
Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress



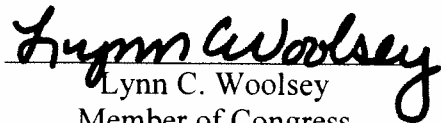
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



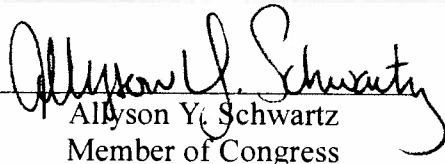
Lane Evans  
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



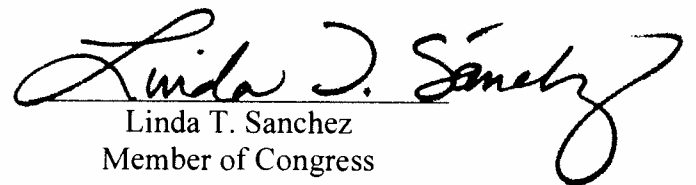
Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress



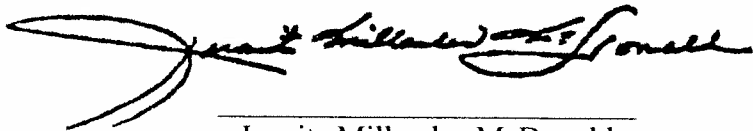
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



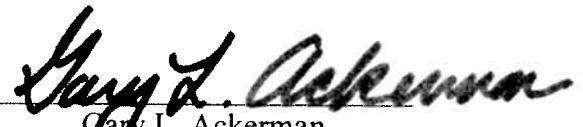
Benjamin L. Cardin  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Member of Congress



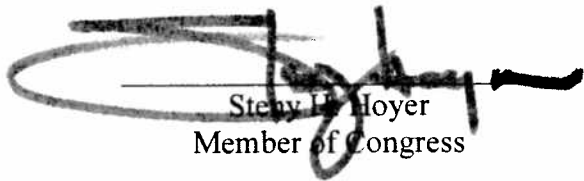
Gary L. Ackerman  
Member of Congress



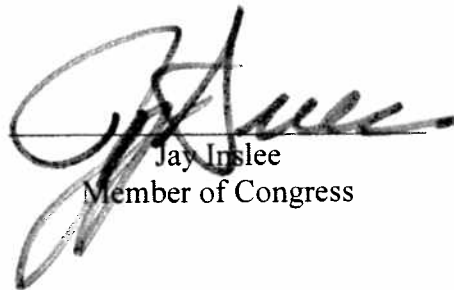
Tom Lantos  
Member of Congress



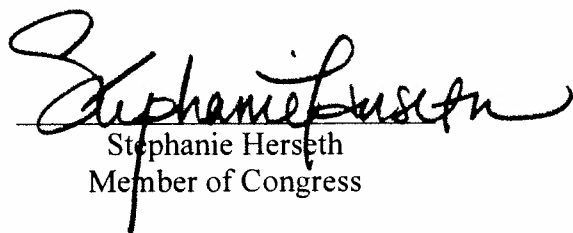
David E. Price  
Member of Congress



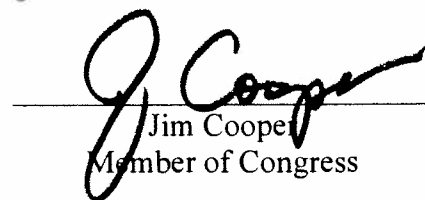
Steeny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



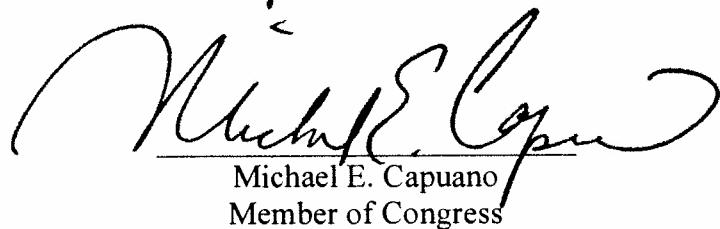
Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth  
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress