

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

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As the subcommittee develops its FY2016 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing local economies and for providing a lifeline to families and communities, with proven results. **We request the subcommittee provide at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.**

Since FY 2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected accomplishment data for the CDBG program. The data highlight the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. It has provided funds in every state, including housing investments, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development, while also providing public services, including services for seniors, youth, the disabled, and employment training.

Despite being a key tool for aiding our communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of deep cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by nearly \$1 billion since FY2010. While the program helps more than 1,200 cities, counties, states, and rural areas meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and communities, funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of grantees to revitalize their communities and respond to local need. We share your commitment to the most effective use of taxpayer dollars, and believe that these grants have proven highly effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past nine years (FY2005 – FY2014), CDBG has:

- Helped over 1.2 million low- and moderate-income persons through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement, among other activities;
- Created or retained 353,237 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;
- Provided direct assistance to 220,695 businesses since FY07;

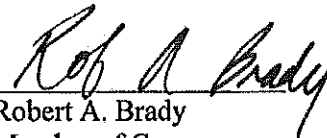
- Benefited nearly 37 million low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements including senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;
- Benefited over 114 million low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services for abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and other services.

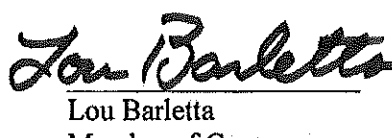
Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional \$4.07 in non-CDBG funding.

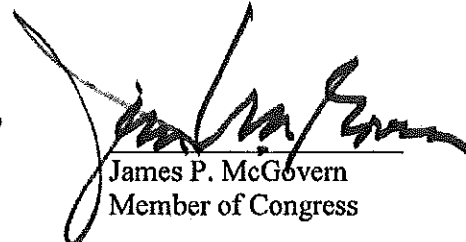
CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. It is one federal program that touches the lives of nearly every American in some fashion. Over 7,200 communities have access to the funds and rely on the program to enhance their life and community. The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to support at least \$3.3 billion for the CDBG program in FY16 to help grow local economies.


Sincerely,

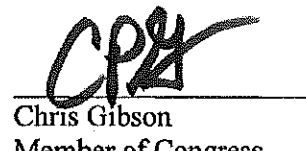
  
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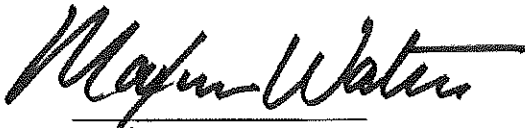
  
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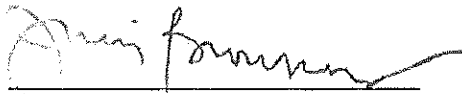
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Anna Eshoo  
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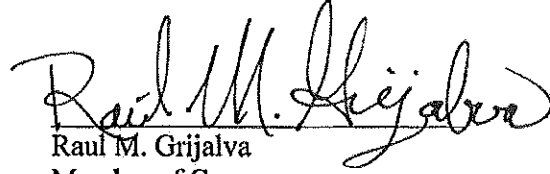
Julia Brownley  
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Barbara Lee  
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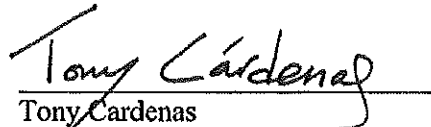
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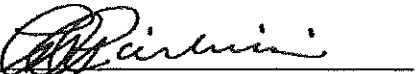
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Mark Takano  
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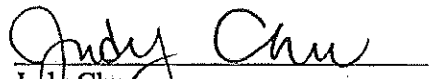
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Eric Swalwell  
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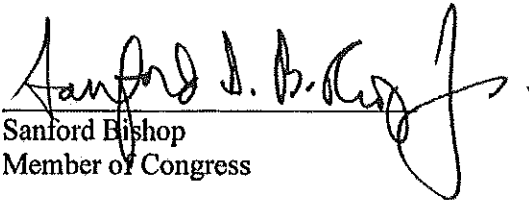
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



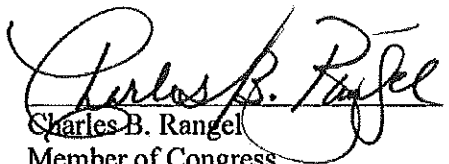
Judy Chu  
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Marc Veasey  
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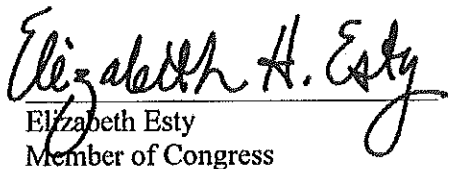
Sanford Bishop  
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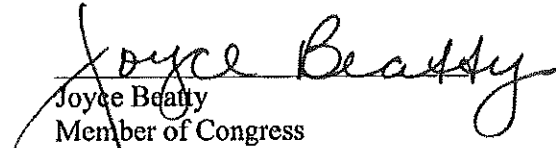


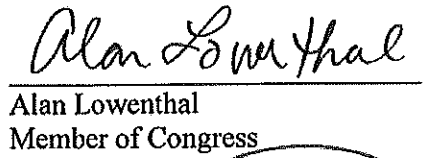
Charles B. Rangel  
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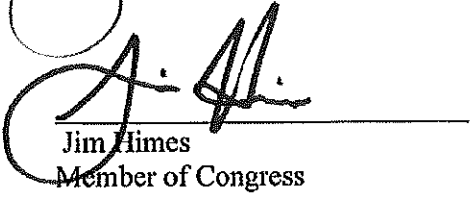


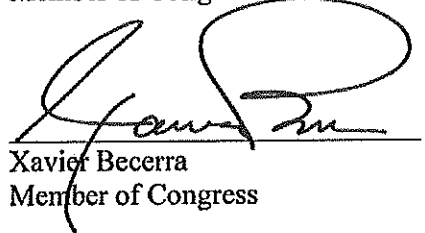
Ted Deutch  
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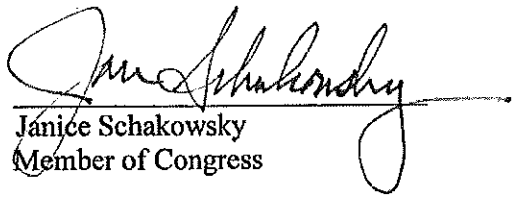
  
Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

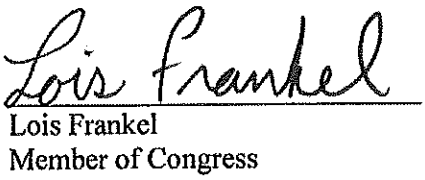
  
Joyce Beatty  
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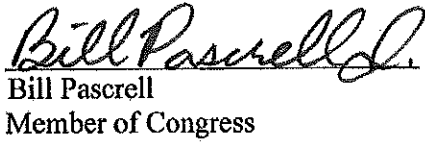
  
Alan Lowenthal  
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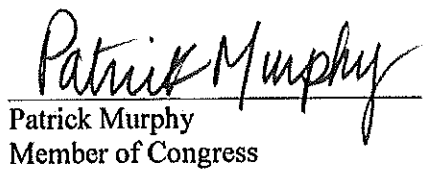
  
Jim Himes  
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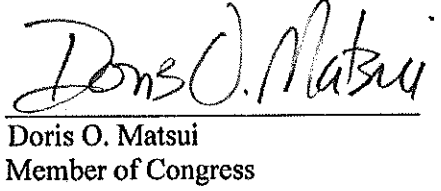
  
Xavier Becerra  
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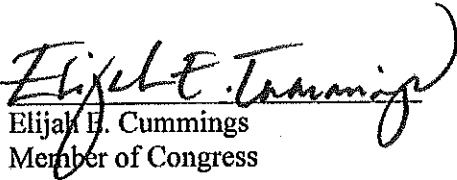
  
Janice Schakowsky  
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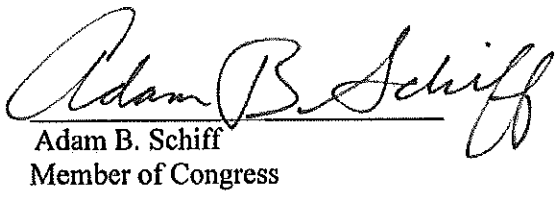
  
Lois Frankel  
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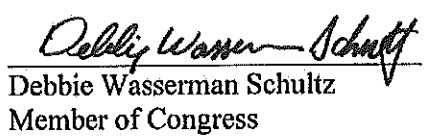
  
Bill Pascrell  
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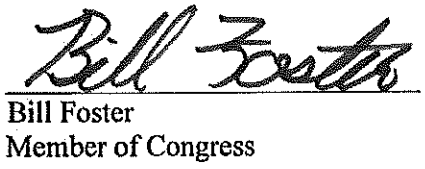
  
Patrick Murphy  
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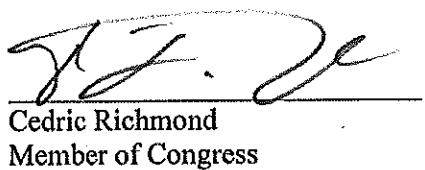
  
Doris O. Matsui  
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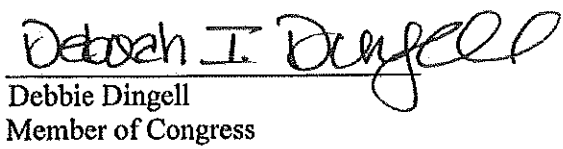
  
Elijah E. Cummings  
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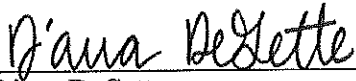
  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Bill Foster  
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Cedric Richmond  
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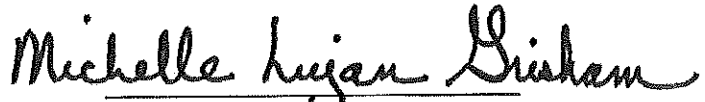
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



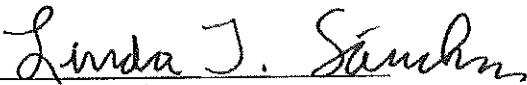
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Al Green  
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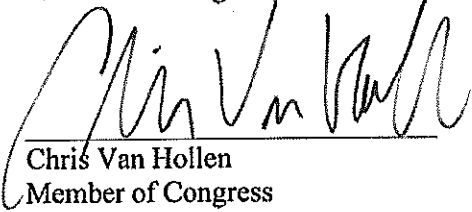
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
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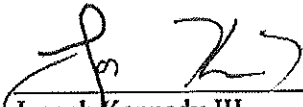
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



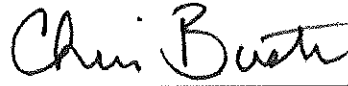
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



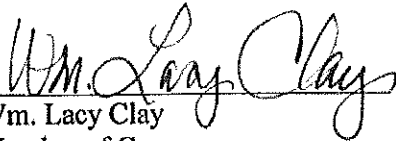
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



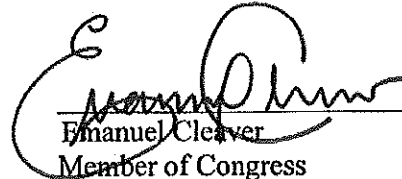
Joseph Kennedy III  
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Cheri Bustos  
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Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Emanuel Cleaver  
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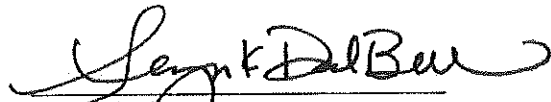
David Loebsack  
Member of Congress



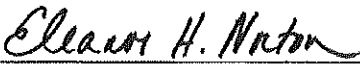
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

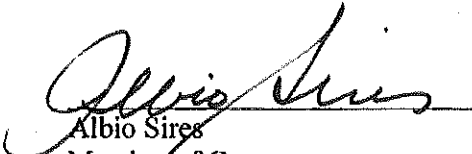



Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

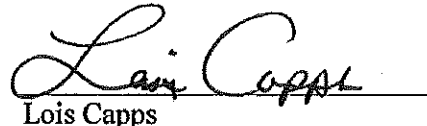


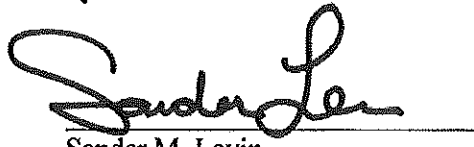
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

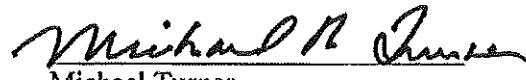
  
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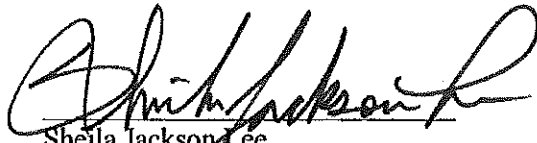
  
Albio Sires  
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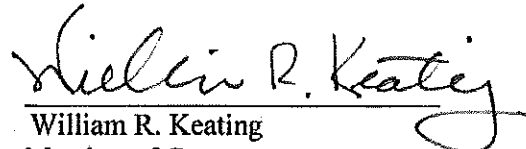
  
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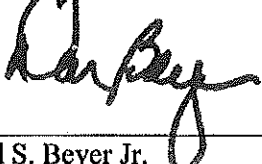
  
Lois Capps  
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Michael Turner  
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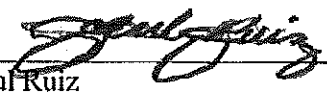
  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
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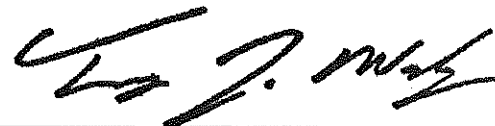
  
William R. Keating  
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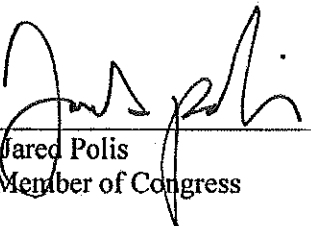
  
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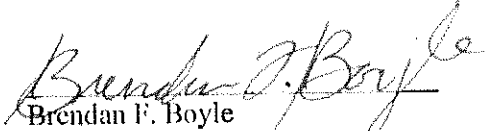
  
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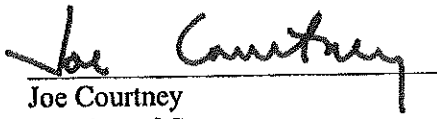
  
Scott Peters  
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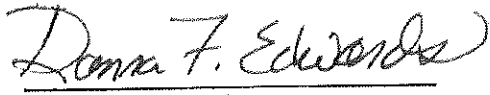
  
Kyrsten Sinema  
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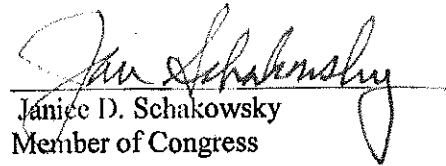
  
Brendan F. Boyle  
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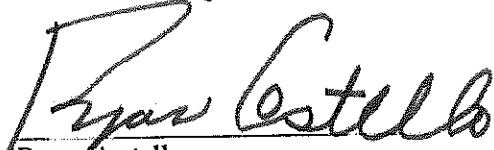
  
Suzanne Bonamici  
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Joe Courtney  
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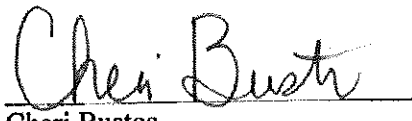
  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

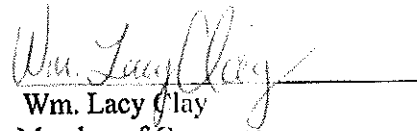
  
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

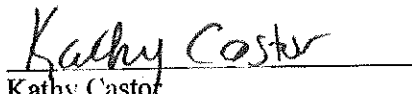
  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

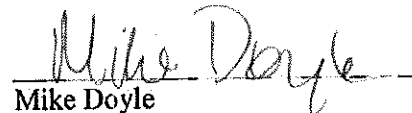
  
Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress

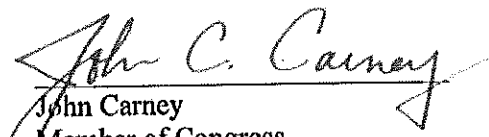
  
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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress


  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress


  
John Carney  
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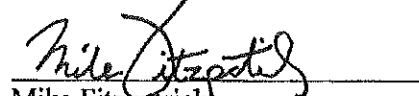
  
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Member of Congress




  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress


  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

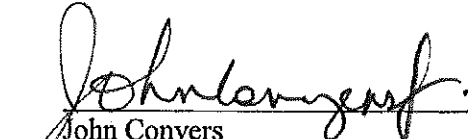
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

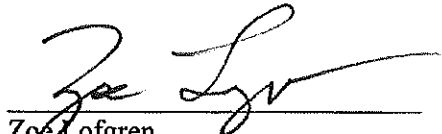
  
Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

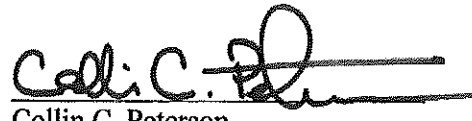
  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

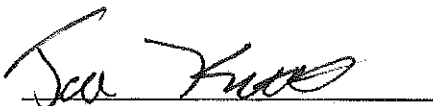
  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress


  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

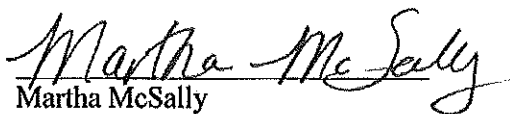
  
John Conyers  
Member of Congress

  
Zoe Lofgren  
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Collin C. Peterson  
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John Katko  
Member of Congress

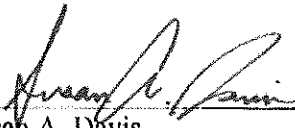
  
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Member of Congress

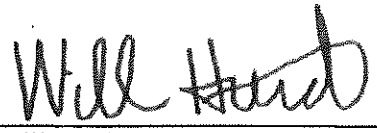
  
Martha McSally  
Member of Congress

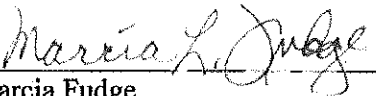
  
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Member of Congress


  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

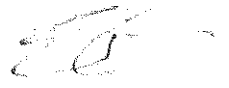
  
Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress

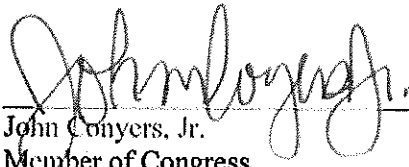
  
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

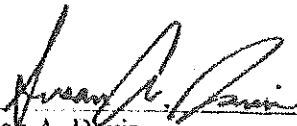
  
Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

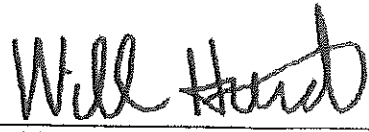
  
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

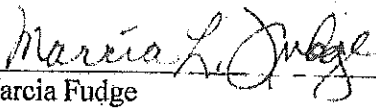
  
Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress


  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

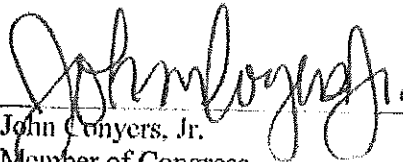
  
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

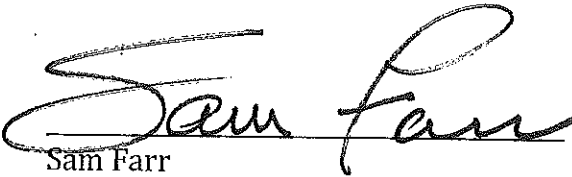
  
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Member of Congress


  
Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

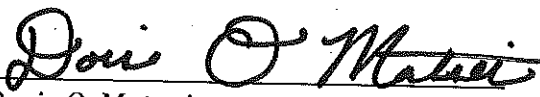
  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress

  
Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress