Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2012

President José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
European Commission
c/o Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America
2175 K Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20037

Dear President Barroso,

As members of the United States Congress committed to partnership between our country and the European Union in the vital effort to fight terrorism, we write to urge the Commission to include Hezbollah on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations.

Hezbollah's fingerprints are on terror attacks across the globe, including on European soil. On July 18, 2012, five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian were killed and dozens were injured in a terrorist attack in Burgas, Bulgaria. The method of the attack, the type of explosive used, and its intended victims mirror many attacks perpetrated around the world by Hezbollah.

In 1983, Hezbollah killed hundreds of French and American soldiers when they bombed the barracks of the Multinational Force in Lebanon. In a murderous barrage in Buenos Aires, Hezbollah bombed the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and the AMIA Jewish Community Center in 1994. In 2006, Hezbollah fired thousands of missiles into northern Israel.

Suicide bombing was introduced to the Middle East by Hezbollah, and the group has continually engaged in the practice against military targets and innocent civilians. The group is known for abducting foreigners and holding them hostage, sometimes for years. South Lebanon's instability and lawlessness is primarily due to Hezbollah's presence in the region; even though Security Council resolutions 1559 and 1701 specifically call for the disbanding of all militias in Lebanon, Hezbollah continues to expand there.

For decades, Iran and Syria have armed, financed, and trained Hezbollah. Both countries provide Hezbollah with stockpiles of missiles that can easily hit cities and towns in Israel. Additionally, with the acquiescence of the Assad regime, weapons and equipment are regularly shuttled from Iran through Syria to the hands of Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon. In recent days, the world has watched as Hezbollah returns the favor by supporting Assad's murderous attacks against his own people.

Some argue that Hezbollah, besides acting as an armed militia, also serves as a political party and provider of social services. However, it is undeniably first and foremost an organization that

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perpetrates acts of terrorism. Moreover, and even more disturbingly, Hezbollah's services are provided almost exclusively in order to advance the organization's terrorist agenda.

The U.S. Department of State designated Hezbollah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) when the label was established under the U.S. Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. Groups designated as FTOs immediately have their assets frozen, and support of the group is criminalized. In light of Hezbollah's flagrant identification with terror, its implication in a long and ongoing series of violent acts, and its close alliance with a brutal regime in Damascus that is responsible for daily terrorism on a national scale, we urge the European Union to do the same.

Respectfully,

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

Mary Bono Mack
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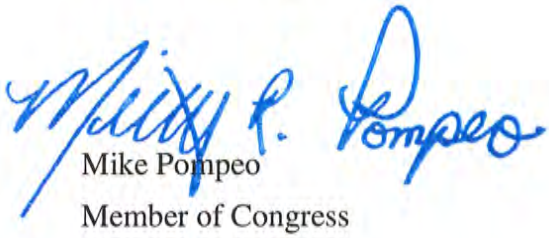
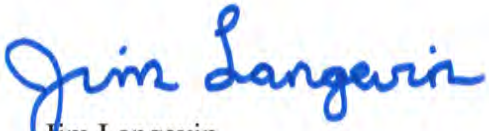


Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis
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Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
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Todd Akin
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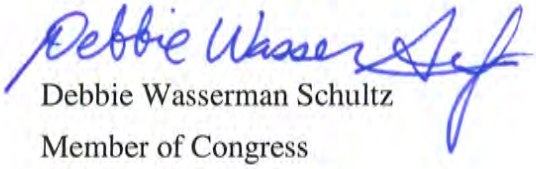
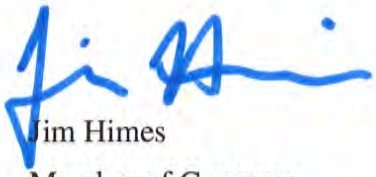


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



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Erik Paulsen
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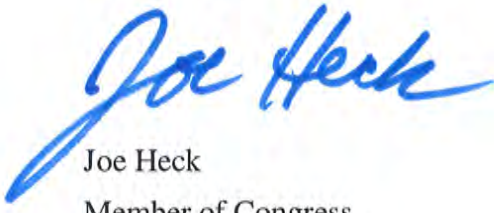
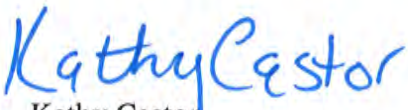
David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Joe Heck
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

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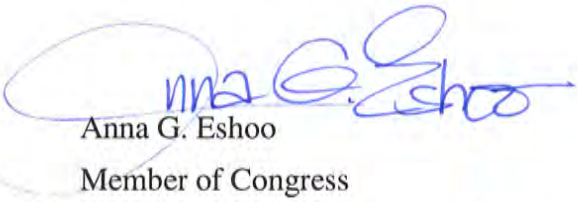
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

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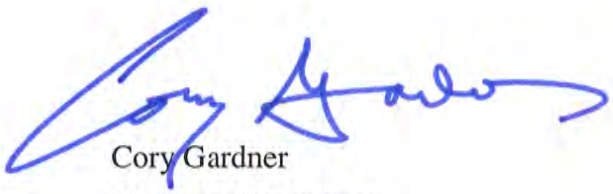
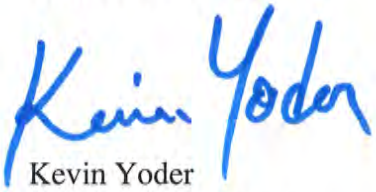
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Robert Dold
Member of Congress

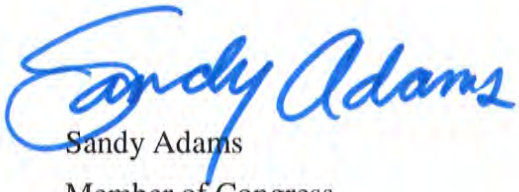


Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Sandy Adams
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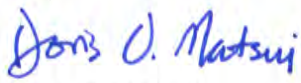

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

David Scott
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John Garamendi
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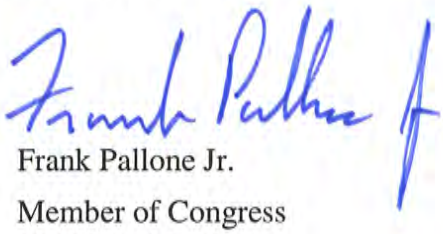
Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

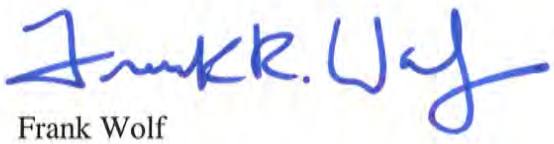
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

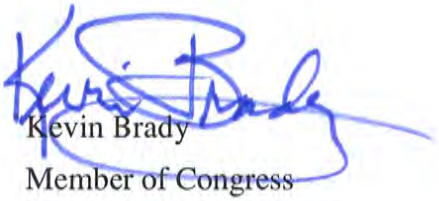


Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

Jeff Flake
Member of Congress



Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

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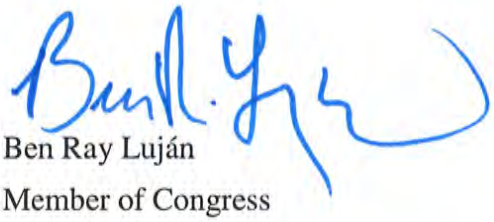
Richard Hanna
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Rick Berg
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers (AL)
Member of Congress

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
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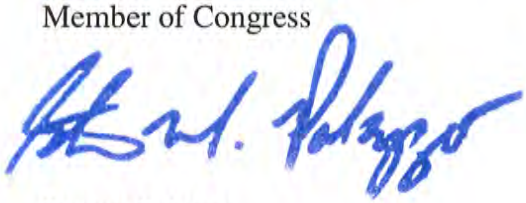

Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

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Martin Heinrich
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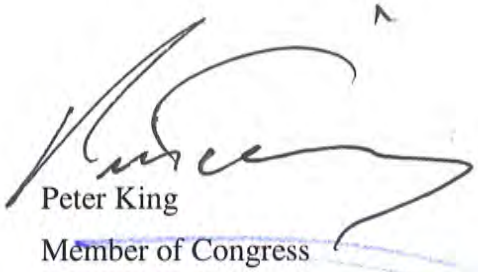
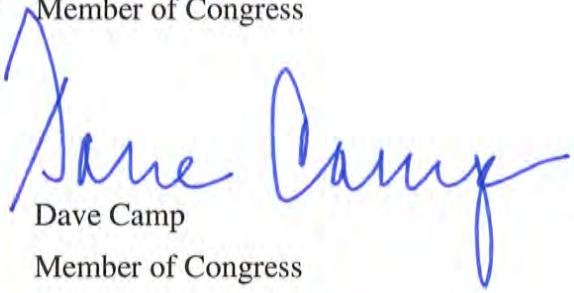


Peter King
Member of Congress



Dave Camp
Member of Congress

Tom Price
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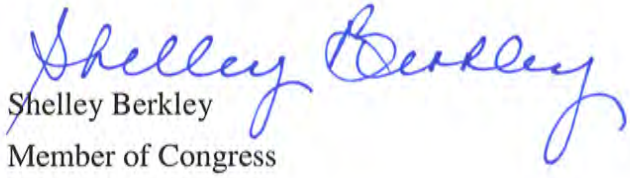
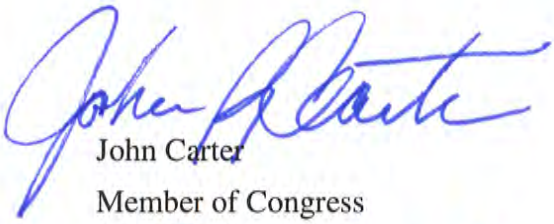
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



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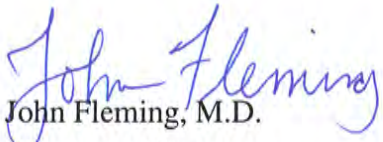

John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

David Rivera
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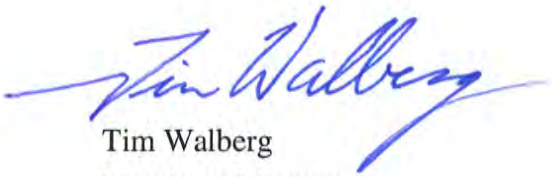

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Phil Roe
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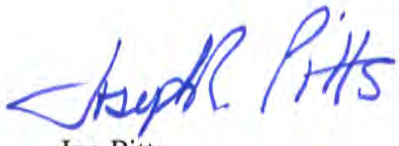

Joe Pitts
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
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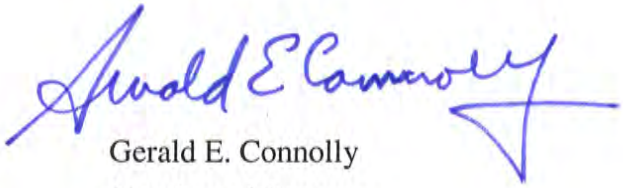

Gerald E. Connolly
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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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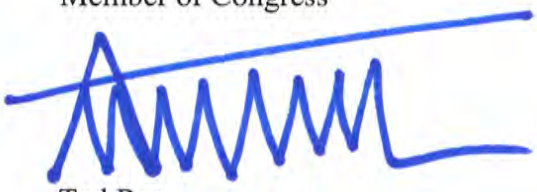
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress

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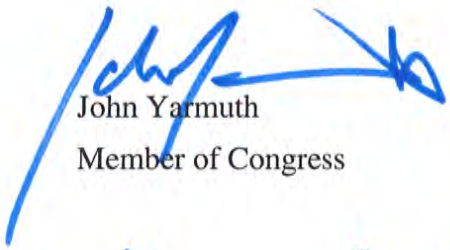
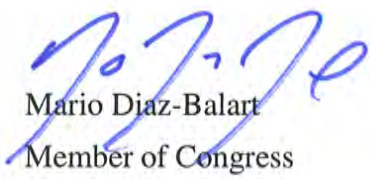
Joe Walsh
Member of Congress

John Sullivan
Member of Congress

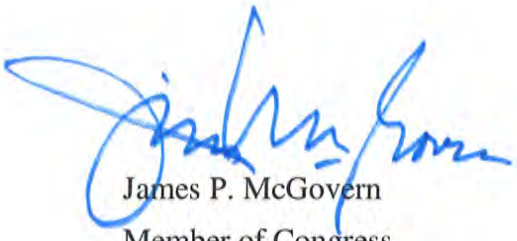


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
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Andy Harris
Member of Congress

Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
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Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Mark Critz
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

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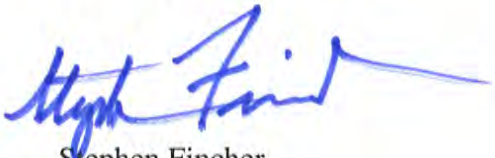
Member of Congress

Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Loretta Sánchez
Member of Congress

Tim Scott
Member of Congress



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Lynn Jenkins
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Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

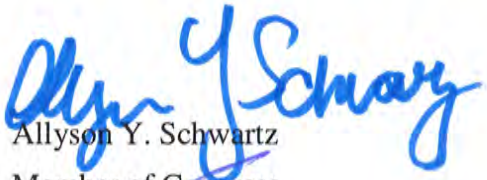
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz
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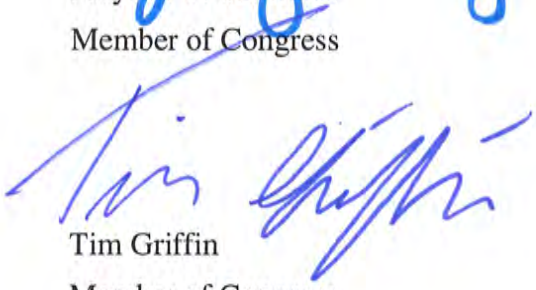
Member of Congress



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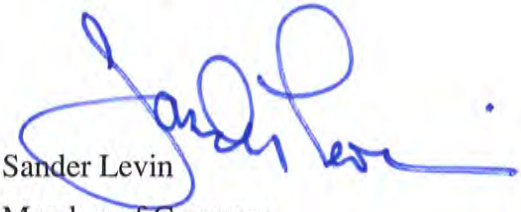
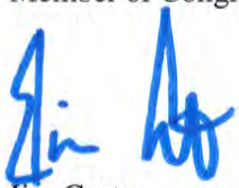
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



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Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Peter Welch
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Ron Kind
Member of Congress

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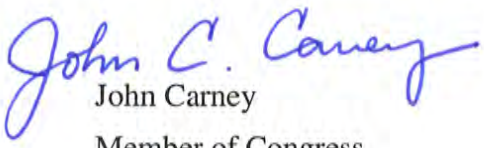
Member of Congress

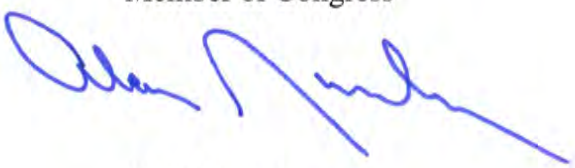
Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

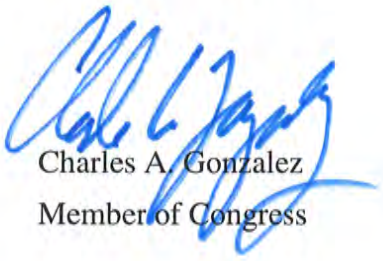
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



John Carney
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez
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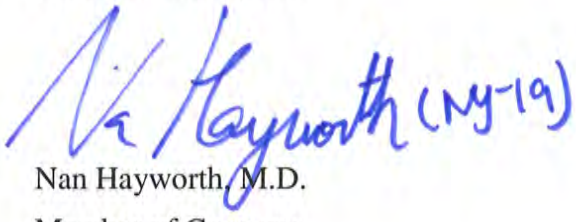
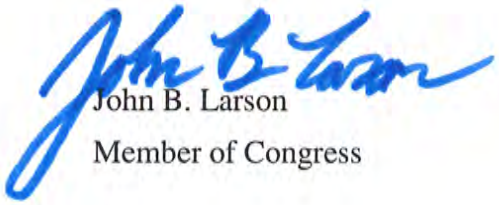


Nan Hayworth, M.D.
Member of Congress

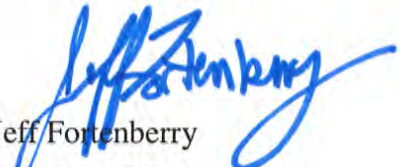


John B. Larson
Member of Congress

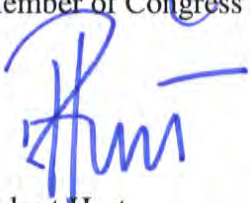
Ben Chandler
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



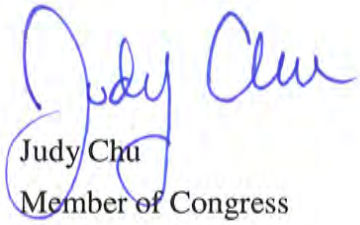
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



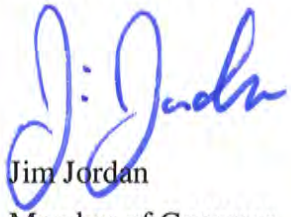
Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

Rich Nugent
Member of Congress

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Susan Davis
Member of Congress

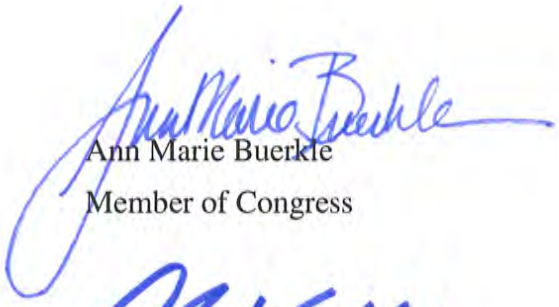
Tom Rooney
Member of Congress

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

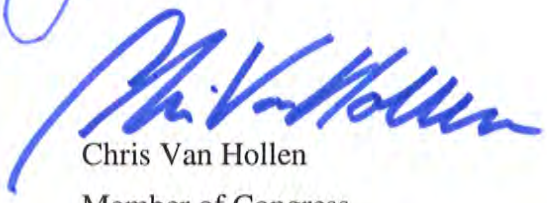
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress

Larry Kissell
Member of Congress

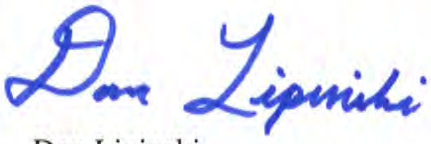


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Allen West
Member of Congress

Kathleen Hochul
Member of Congress

Michael Honda
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress

Todd Young
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

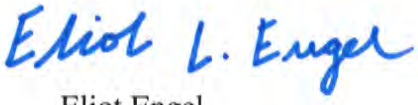
Robert L. Turner
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress

Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



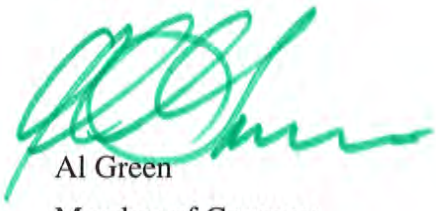
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

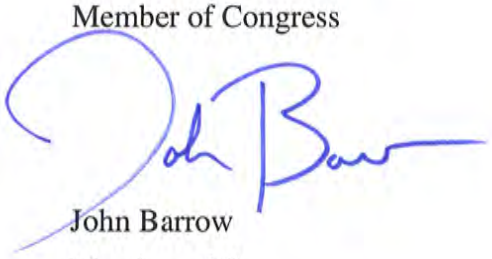
Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

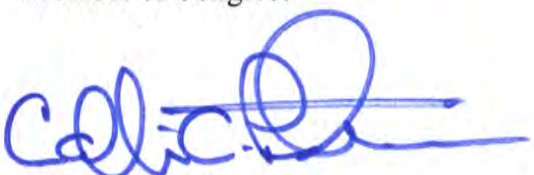


Al Green
Member of Congress



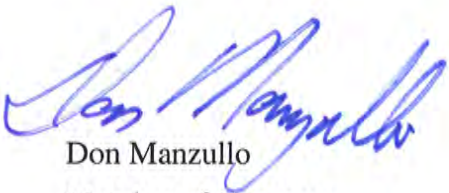
John Barrow
Member of Congress

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



Don Manzullo
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Lee Terry
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Charles Bass
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

John A. Culberson
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

Joe Baca
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr
Member of Congress

Steve LaTourette
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

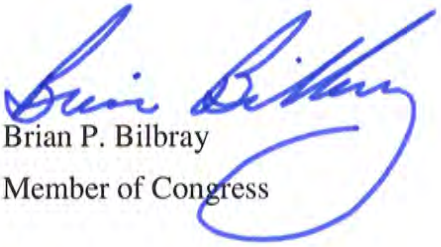
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

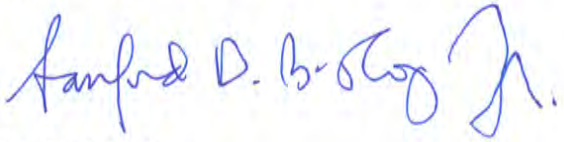
Tim Holden
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

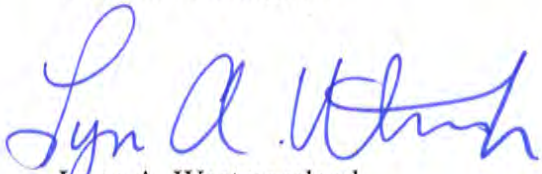
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

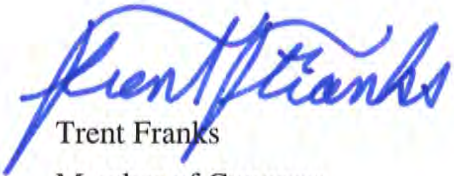


Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

John Kline
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Jim Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

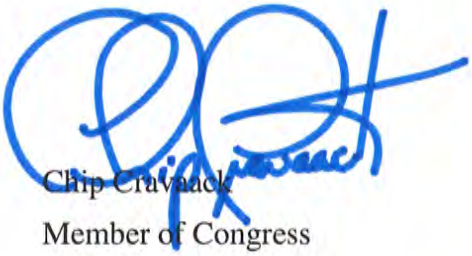
Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

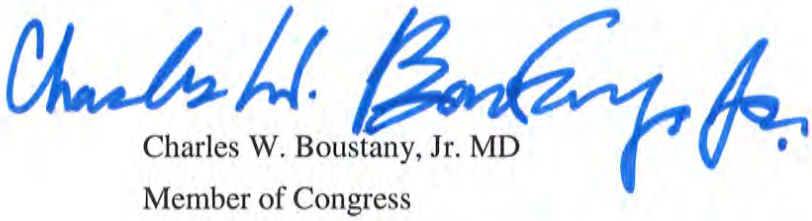
Gene Green
Member of Congress

Heath Shuler
Member of Congress



Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress

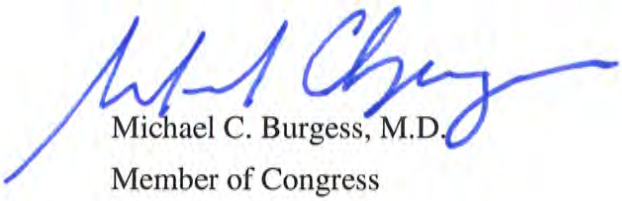
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr. MD
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

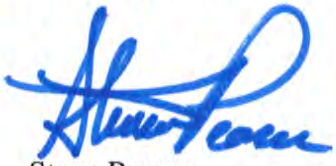
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jerry Costello
Member of Congress

Cliff Stearns
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress