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<http://conaway.house.gov>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 05, 2017

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-601

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Bishop:

As you consider the fiscal year 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for funding Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loans at the same level as last year.

Consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives generate less than five percent of the nation's electric power but maintain nearly half the nation's electric distribution lines. Electric cooperatives' distribution systems cover 75 percent of this country's land mass while serving 12 percent of American electric consumers. Electric cooperatives use RUS Electric Loans to finance electricity distribution, transmission, and generation to provide affordable, reliable electric service to approximately 42 million people every day.

As you know, these loans are repaid with interest and have an extraordinary track record of repayment. RUS Electric Loans also contribute to deficit reduction. In fiscal year 2017 alone, electric loan repayments will net more than \$300 million to the U.S. Treasury.


We also urge that RUS lending continue to be driven by the needs of the borrower rather than limiting the types of projects eligible. This flexibility will help meet the diverse challenges of RUS electric borrowers and ensure loans are available to support distribution projects, transmission projects, environmental upgrades, or the construction of new generation sources.

Lowering the U.S. deficit and keeping co-op consumers' electric bills affordable are mutually beneficial goals we can all support. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

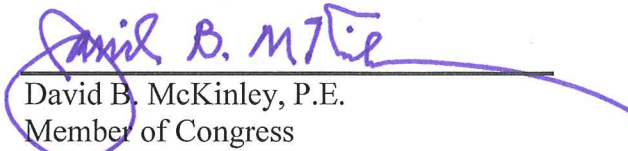
Sincerely,

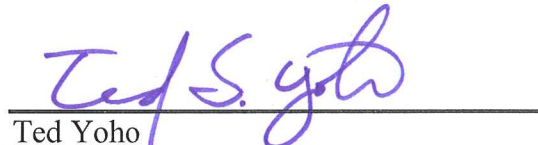

Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

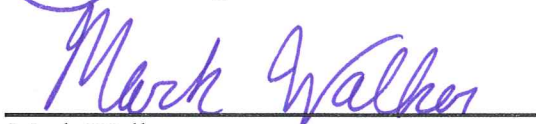

Collin Peterson
Member of Congress


Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress

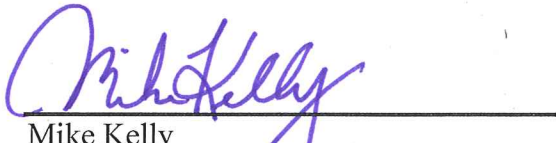

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

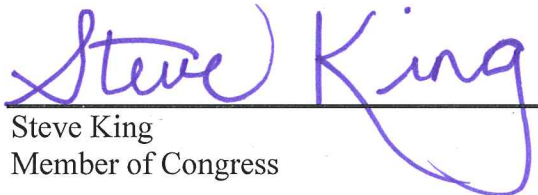

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

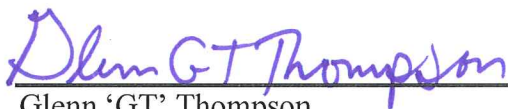

Ted Yoho
Member of Congress


Mark Walker
Member of Congress


Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress



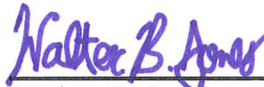
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



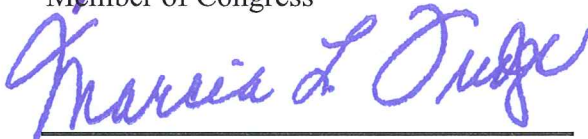
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



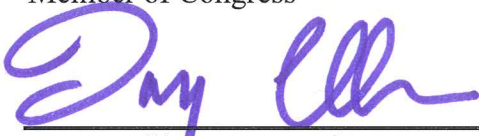
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



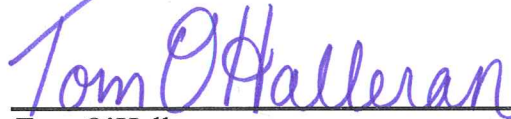
Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



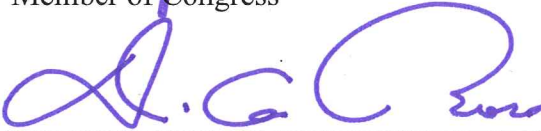
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



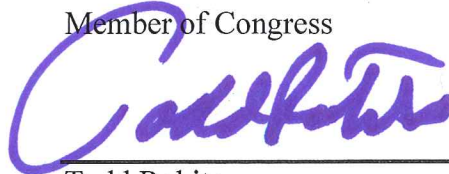
Doug Collins
Member of Congress



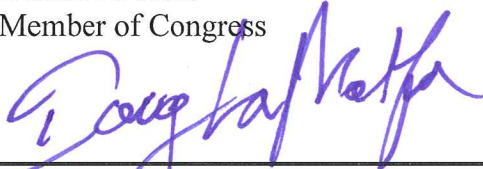
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



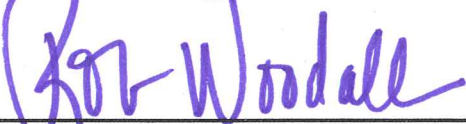
Roger Marshall
Member of Congress



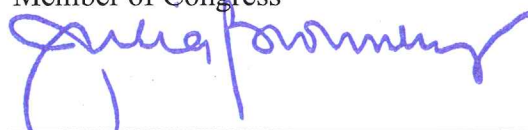
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



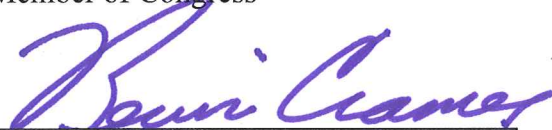
Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Steve Russell
Member of Congress



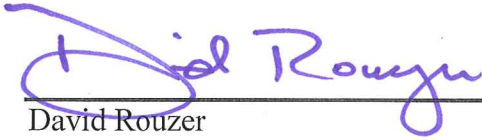
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



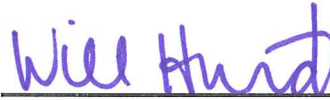
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



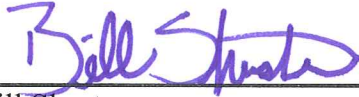
Phil Roe
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



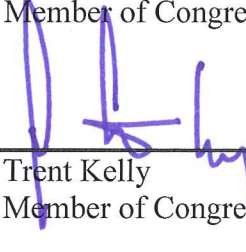
Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



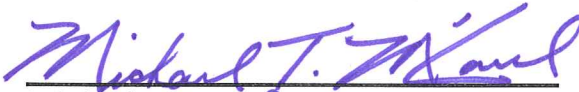
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



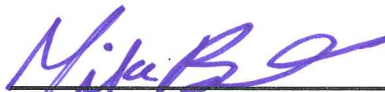
Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



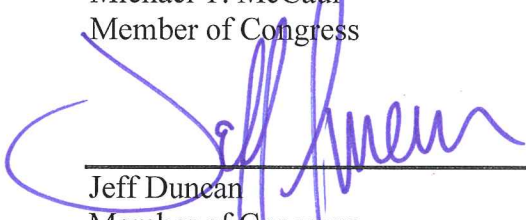
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



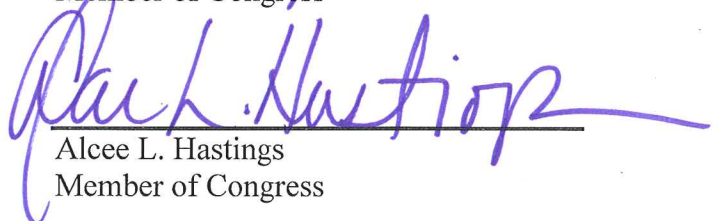
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



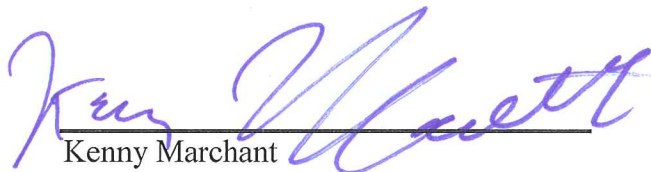
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress




Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



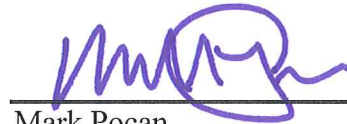
Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



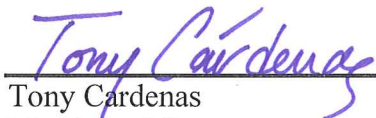
Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



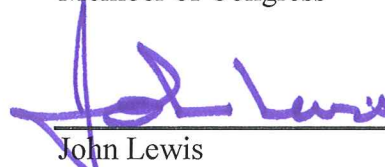
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



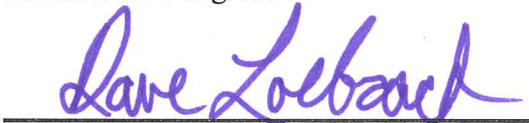
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



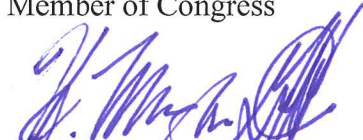
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



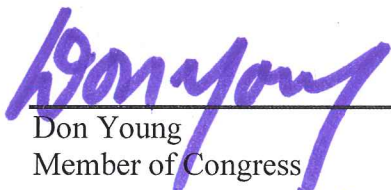
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



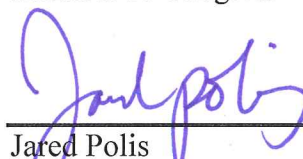
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



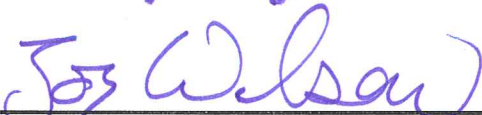
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



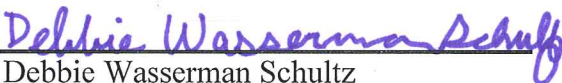
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



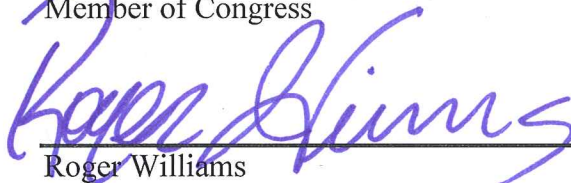
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



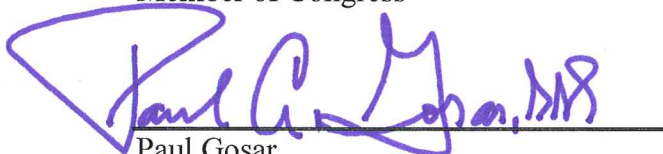
Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



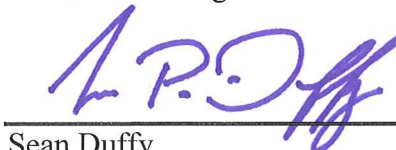
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



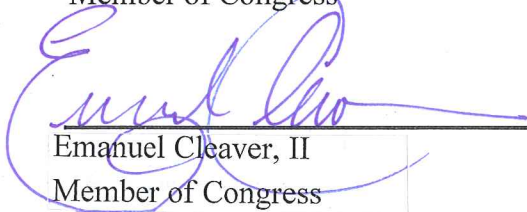
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



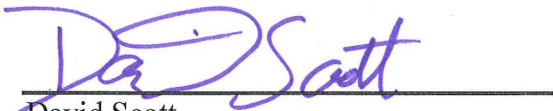
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



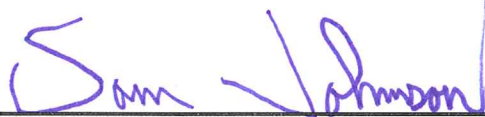
David Scott
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



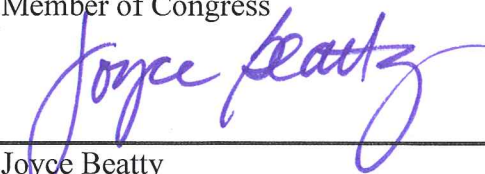
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



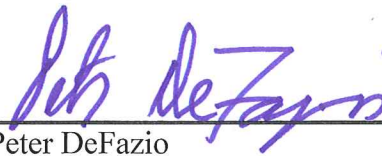
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Danny Davis
Member of Congress



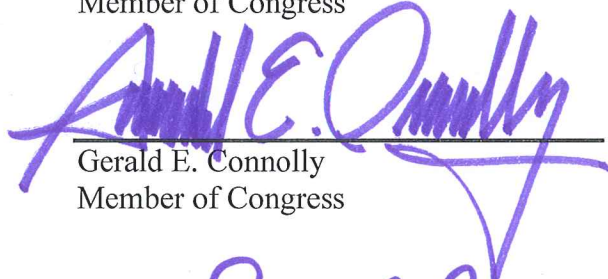
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



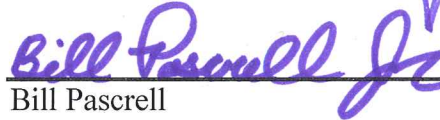
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



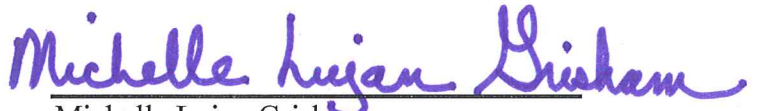
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



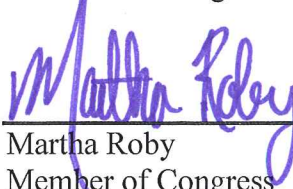
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



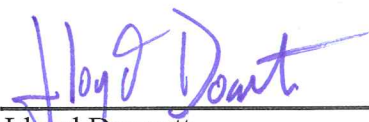
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



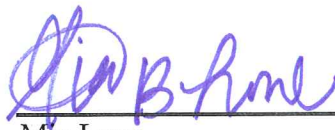
Rick Nolan
Member of Congress




Martha Roby
Member of Congress



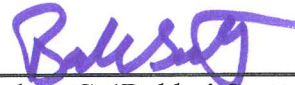
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



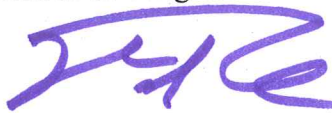
Robert C. 'Bobby' Scott
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



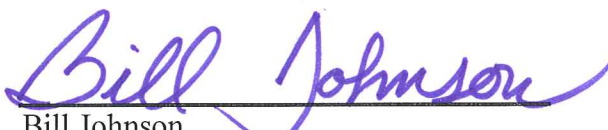
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



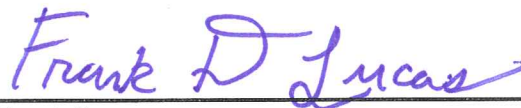
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



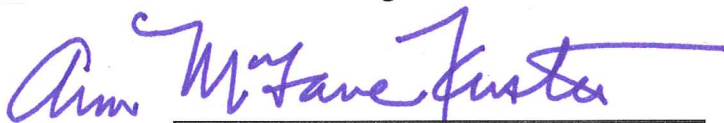
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



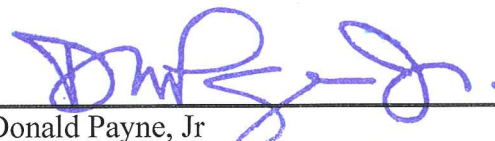
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



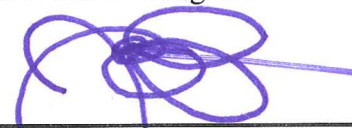
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



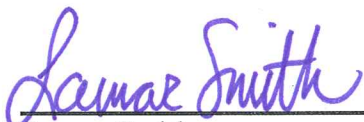
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



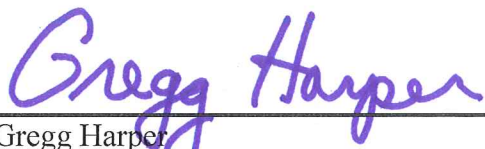
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



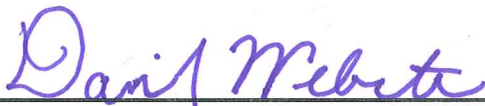
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



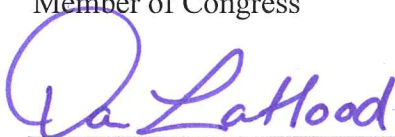
Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



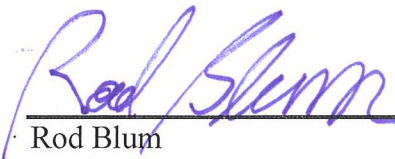
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



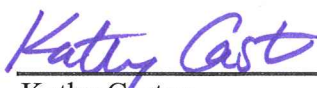
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



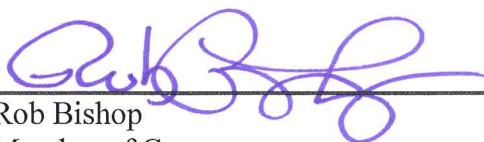
Rod Blum
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



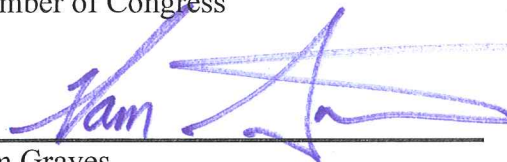
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



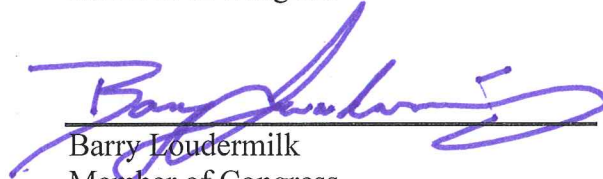
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



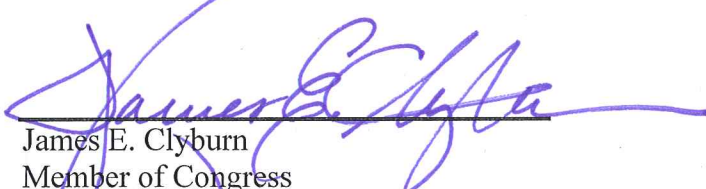
Steve Knight
Member of Congress



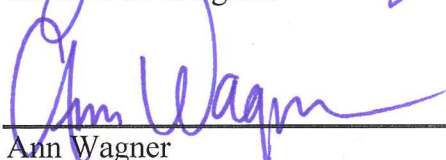
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress




Ann Wagner
Member of Congress




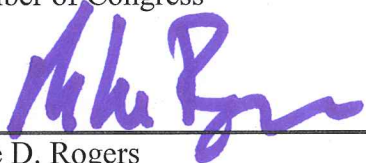
Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress




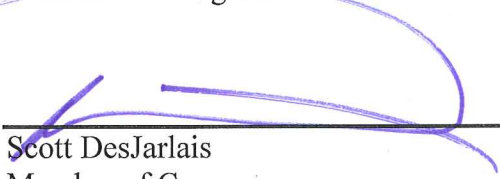
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

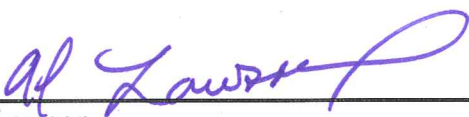

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

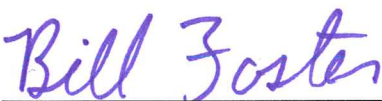

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress

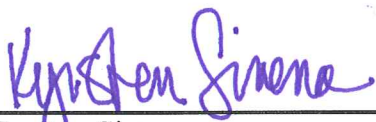

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

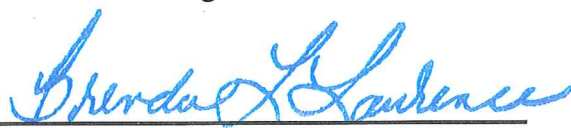

Al Lawson
Member of Congress

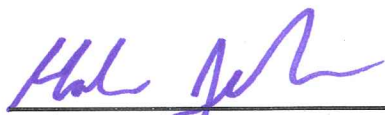

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

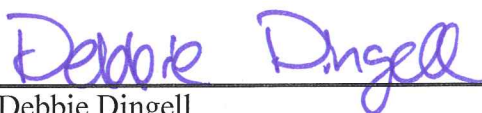

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

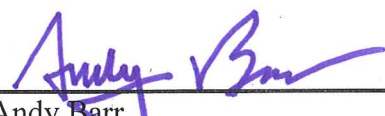

Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

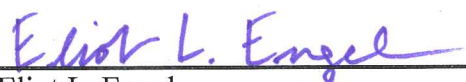

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

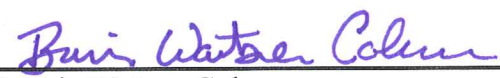

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress


Andy Barr
Member of Congress

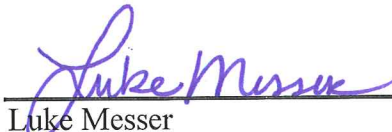

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



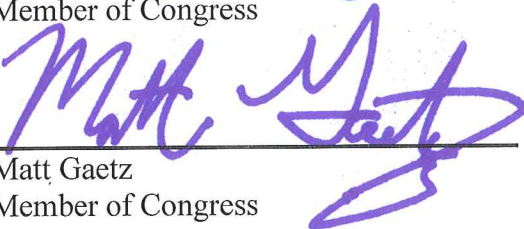
Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



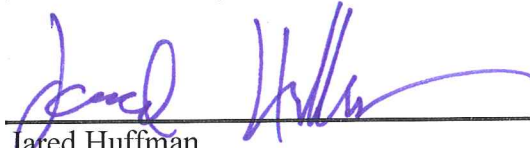
Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



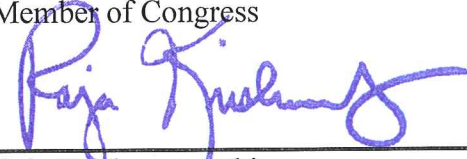
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Alma Adams
Member of Congress



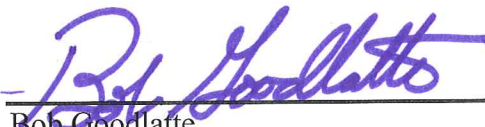
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



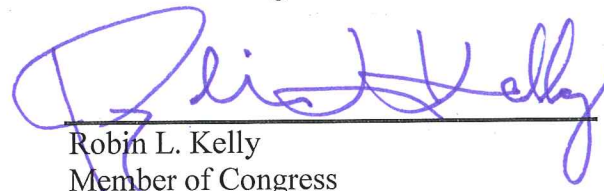
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



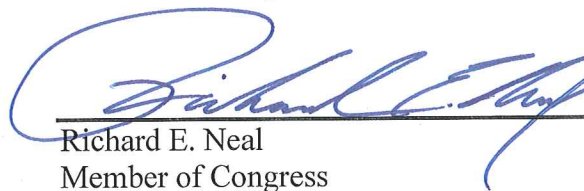
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



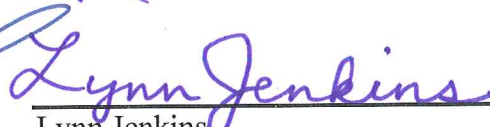
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress




Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



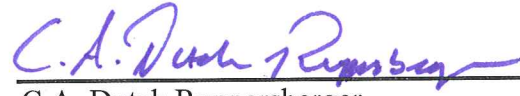
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



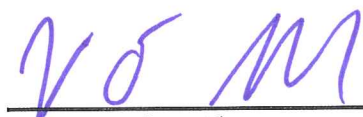
Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



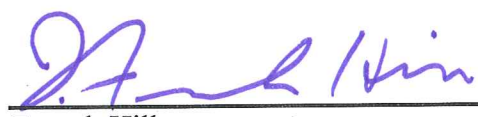
Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Vincente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



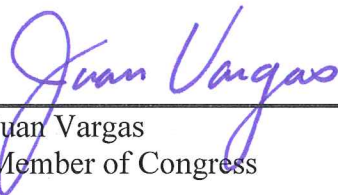
French Hill
Member of Congress



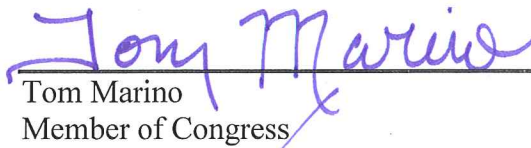
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



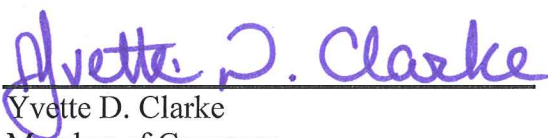
Tom Marino
Member of Congress



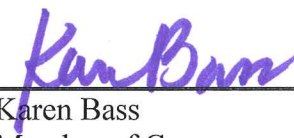
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



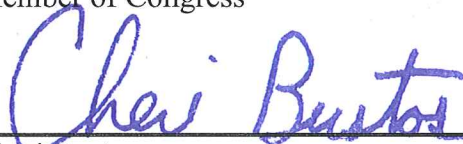
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



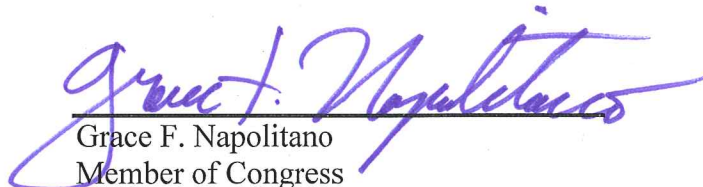
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



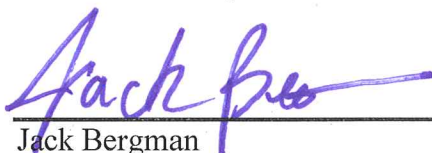
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



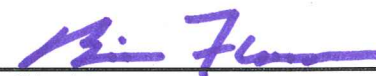
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



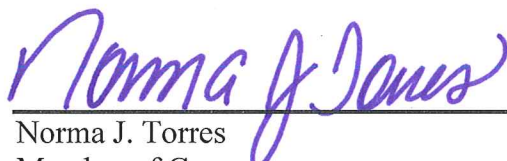
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress




Bill Flores
Member of Congress



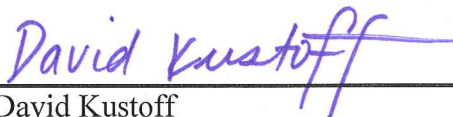
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



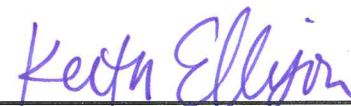
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



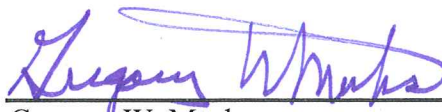
Darren M. Soto
Member of Congress



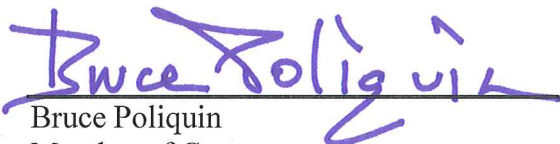
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



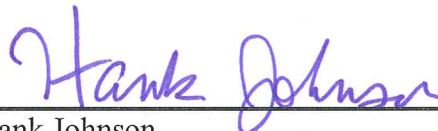
Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



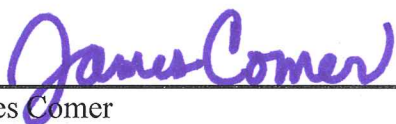
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



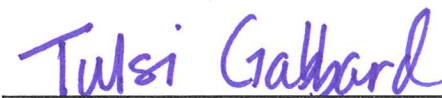
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



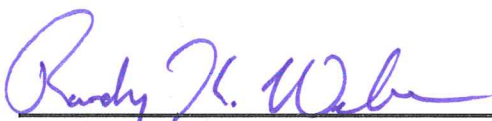
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



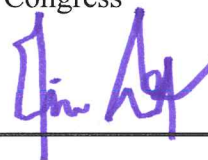
James Comer
Member of Congress



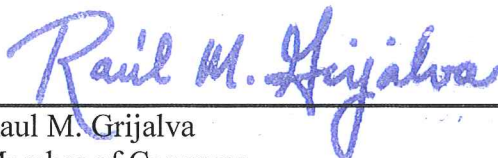
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



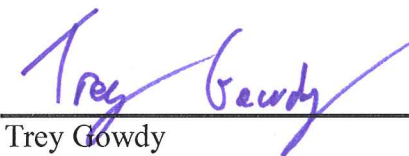
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



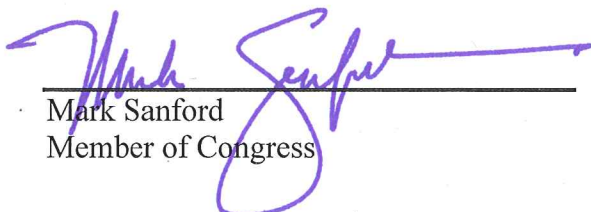
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



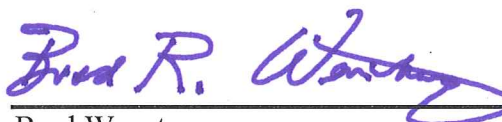
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



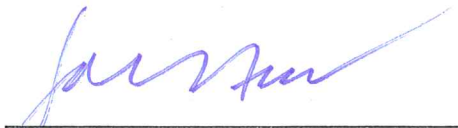
Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



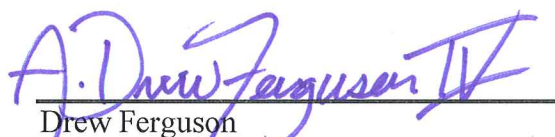
Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



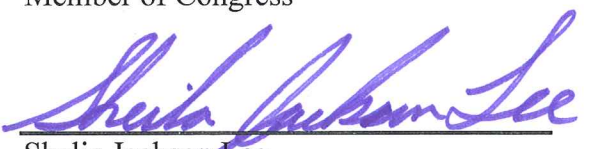
John J. Faso
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



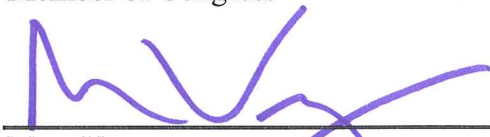
Drew Ferguson
Member of Congress



Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



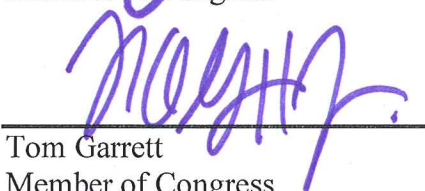
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



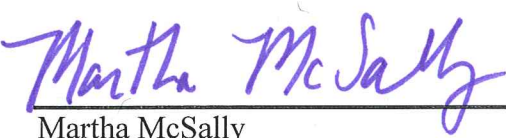
Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



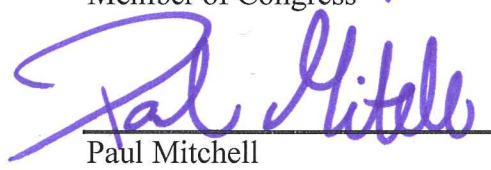
Al Green
Member of Congress



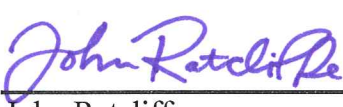
Tom Garrett
Member of Congress



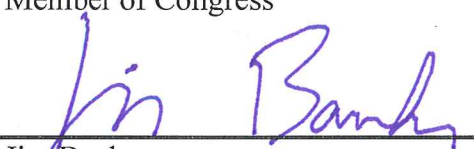
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



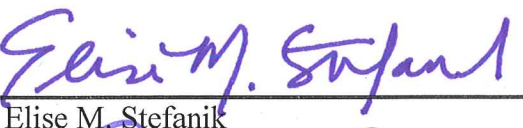
Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



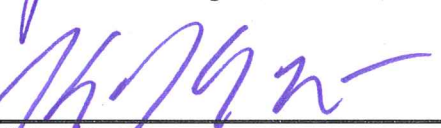
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



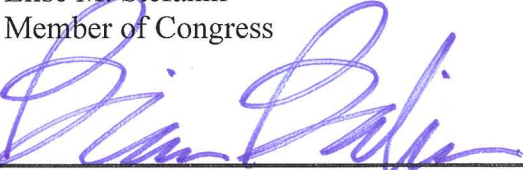
Jim Banks
Member of Congress



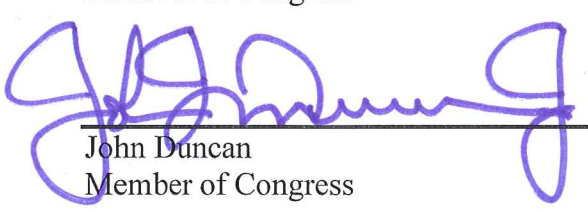
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



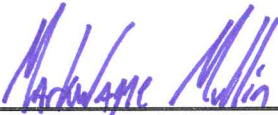
Brian Babin
Member of Congress



John Duncan
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



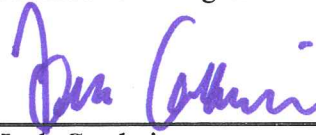
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



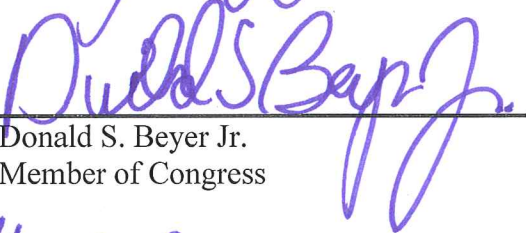
Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress




Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



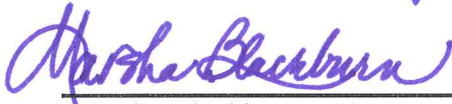
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



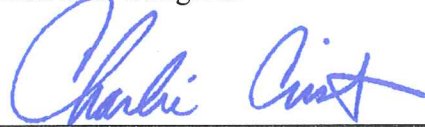
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



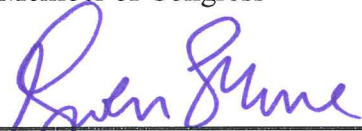
Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



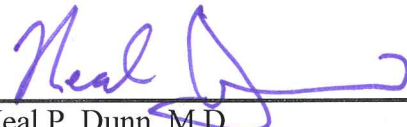
Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress