

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2015

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 Sam Farr
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 Farr:

As you consider the fiscal year 2016 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for funding Rural Utility Service (RUS) Electric Loans at the same level as last year, a level lower than requested by the President.

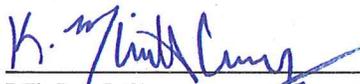
Consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives generate less than five percent of the nation's electric power but maintain nearly half the nation's electric distribution lines. Electric cooperatives' distribution systems cover 75 percent of this country's land mass while serving 12 percent of American electric consumers. Electric cooperatives use RUS Electric Loans to finance electricity generation and distribution and 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 2016 alone, electric loan repayments will net nearly \$300 million to the U.S. Treasury.

The President's Budget recommends that portions of the total loan amount be directed toward specific purposes. Instead, we suggest RUS lending continue to be driven by the needs of the borrower rather than limited by the type of project proposed. This flexibility will help meet the diverse challenges of RUS electric borrowers and ensure loans are available whether the project is for environmental upgrades to current generation, the construction of renewable or natural gas generation, or the development of new baseload generation.

Lowering the U.S. deficit and keeping consumer co-op 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



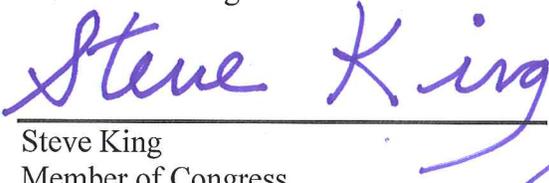
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



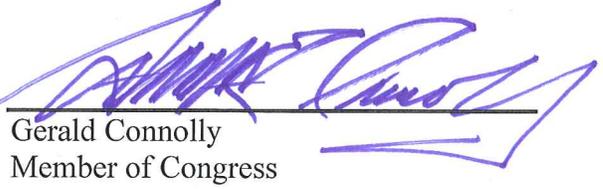
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



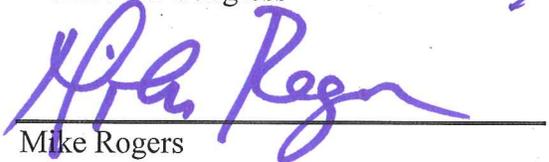
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress



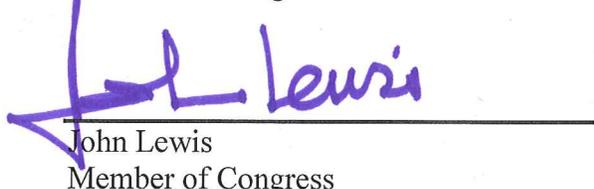
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



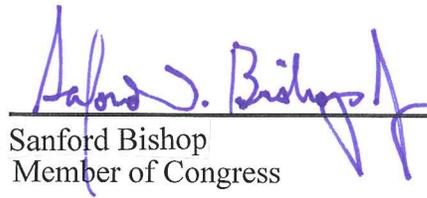
Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



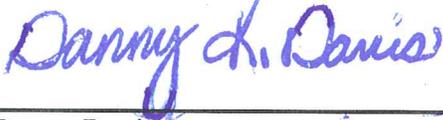
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Phil Roe
Member of Congress



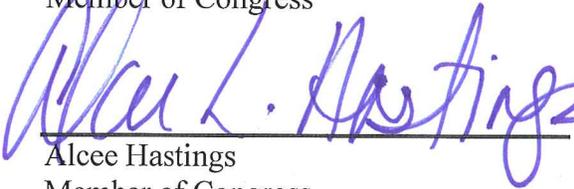
Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



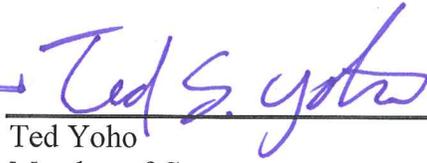
Danny Davis
Member of Congress



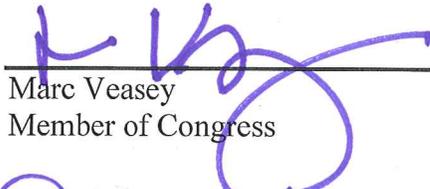
Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



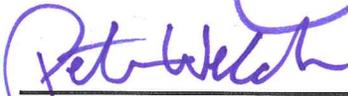
Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



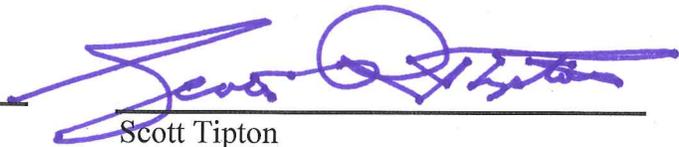
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



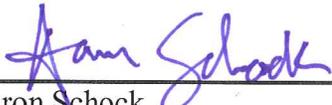
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



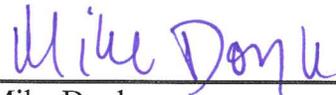
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



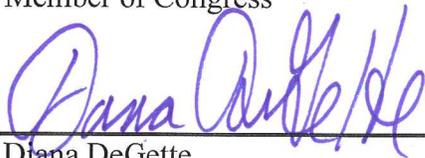
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



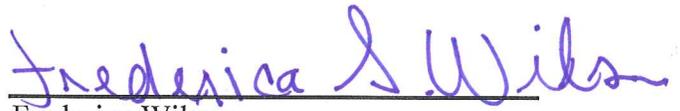
Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



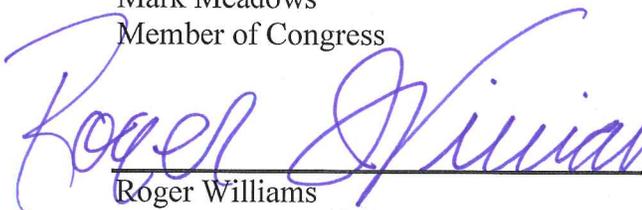
Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



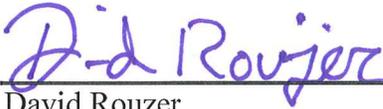
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



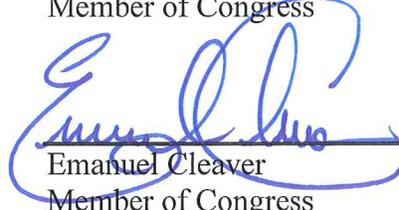
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



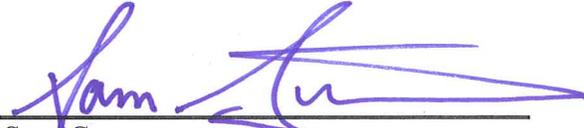
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



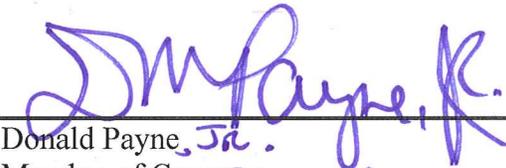
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



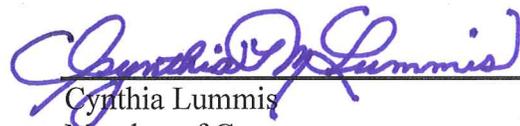
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



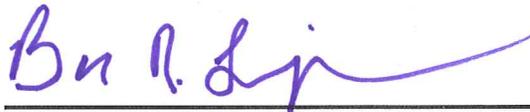
Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



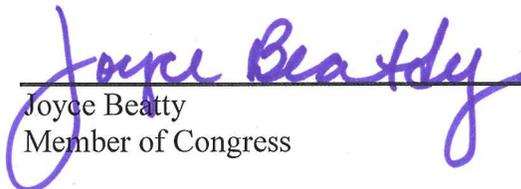
Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



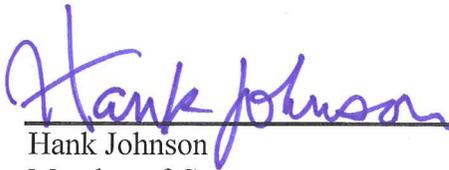
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



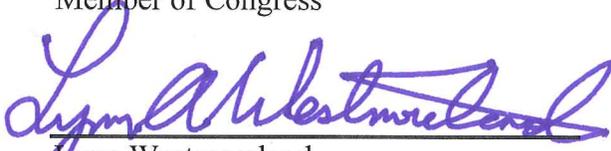
Gene Green
Member of Congress



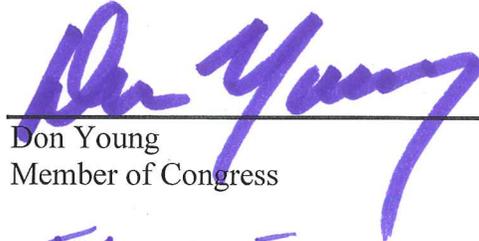
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



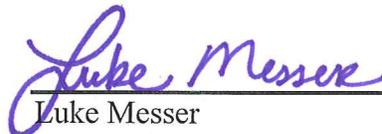
David Scott
Member of Congress



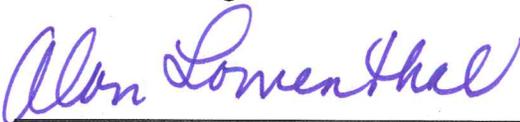
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



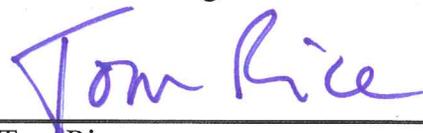
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



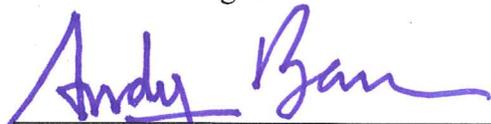
Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



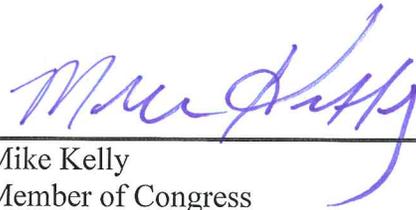
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



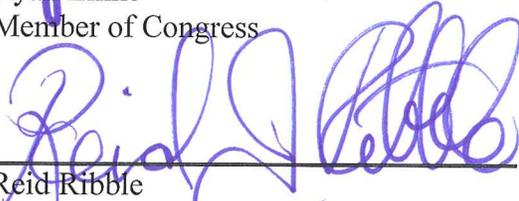
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



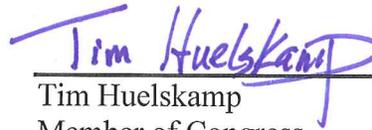
Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



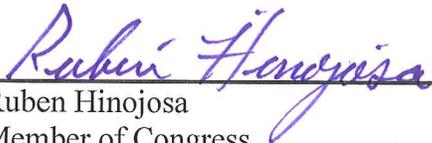
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



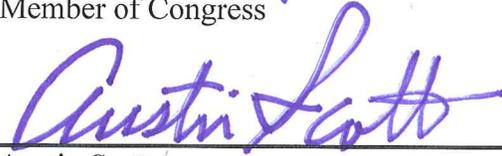
Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



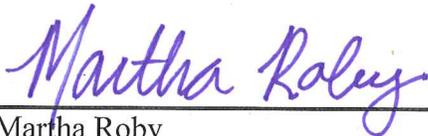
Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



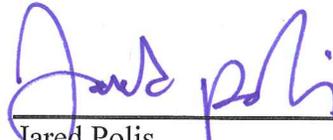
Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress



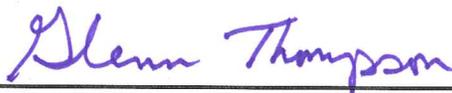
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Martha Roby
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



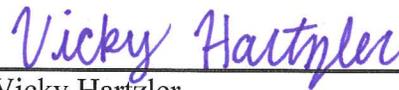
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



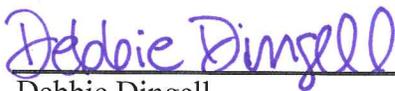
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



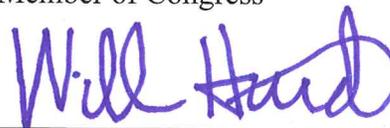
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



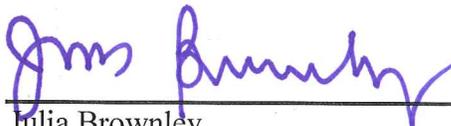
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



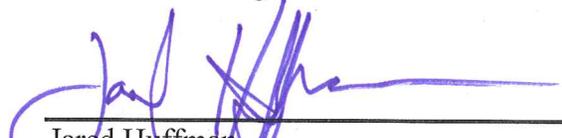
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

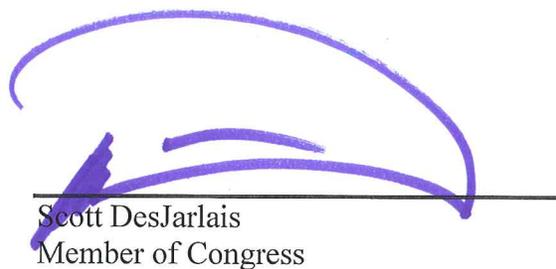


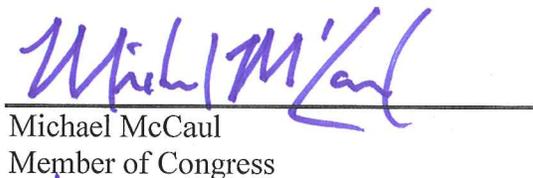
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

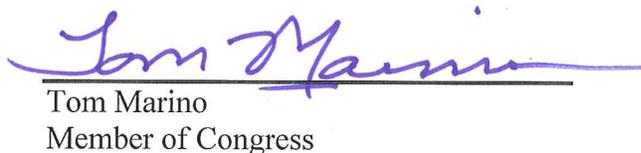


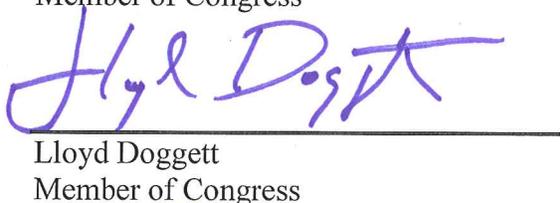
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

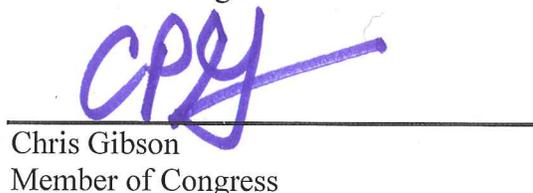

Gwen Graham
Member of Congress

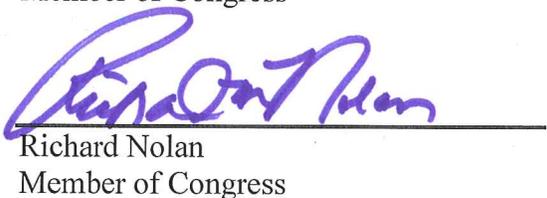

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

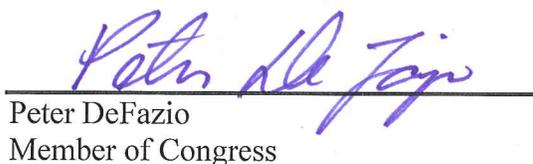

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

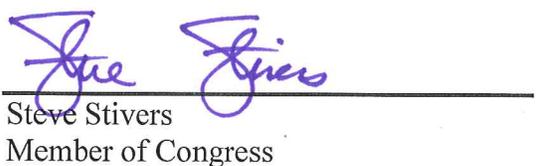

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

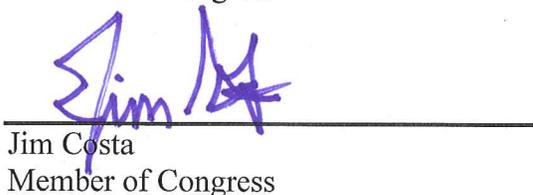

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

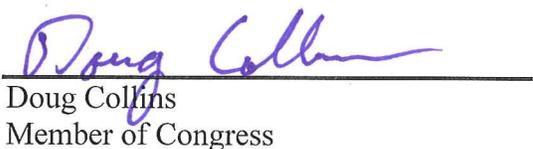

Richard Nolan
Member of Congress

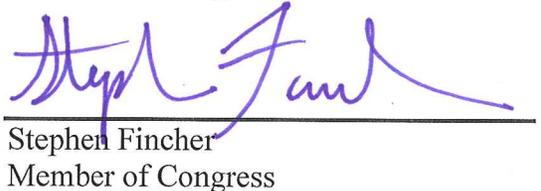

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

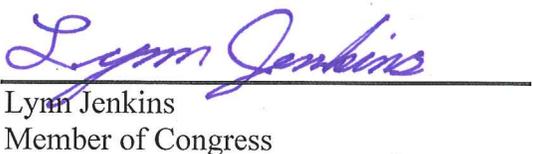

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress

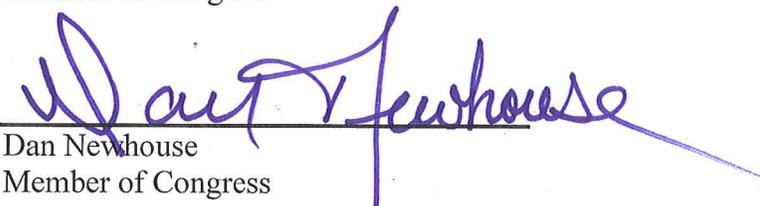

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

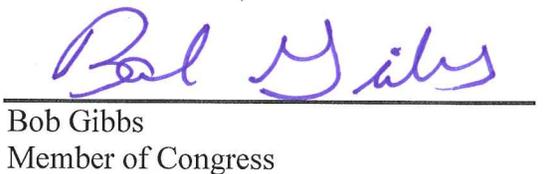

Doug Collins
Member of Congress


Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress


Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress


Rod Blum
Member of Congress

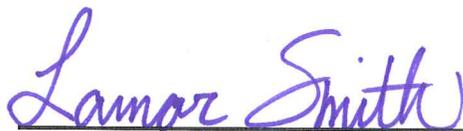

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress


Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

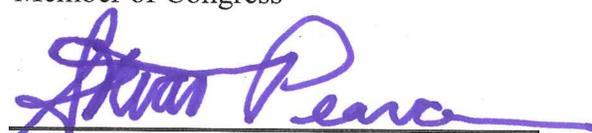

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



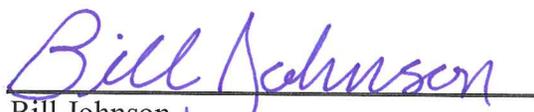
Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



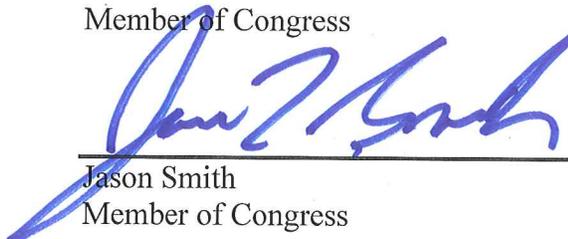
Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



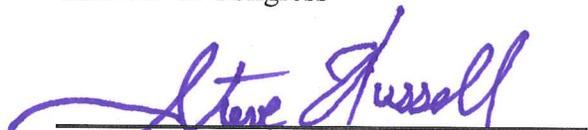
Alma Adams
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



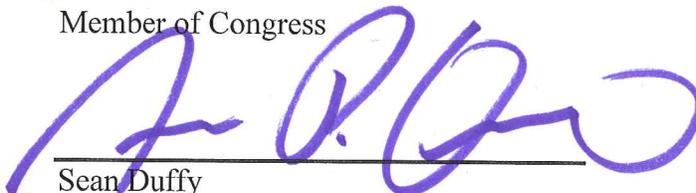
John Fleming
Member of Congress



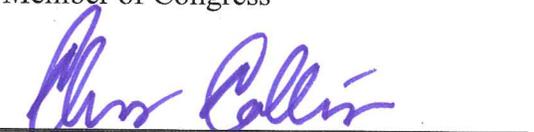
Steve Russell
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



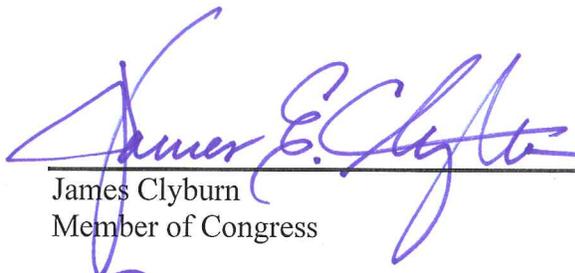
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress

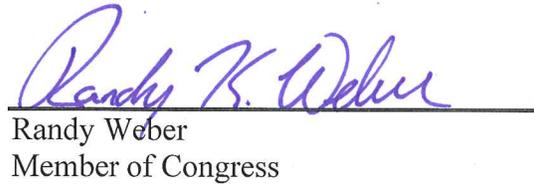


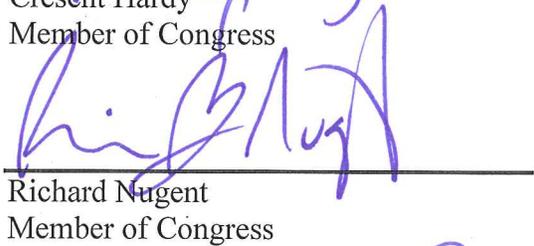
Al Green
Member of Congress


James Clyburn
Member of Congress

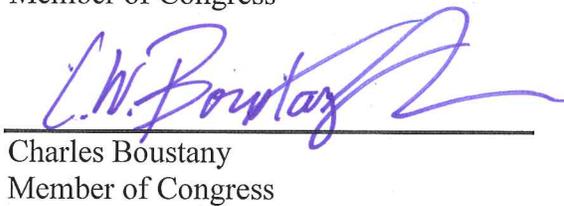

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress


Cresent Hardy
Member of Congress


Randy Weber
Member of Congress

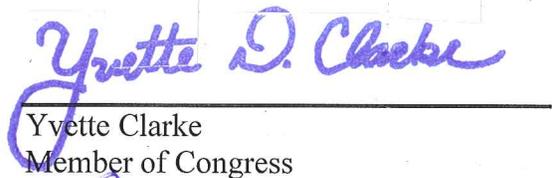

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

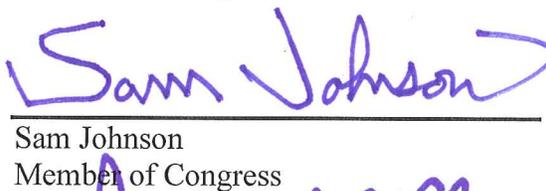

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

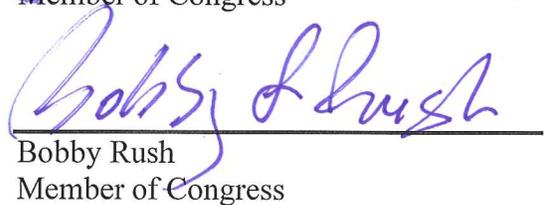

Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

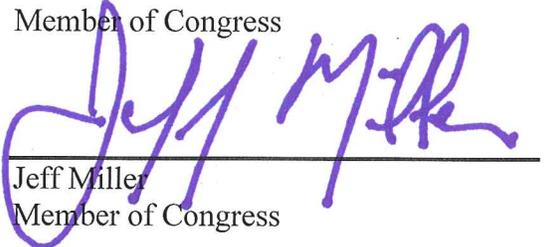

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

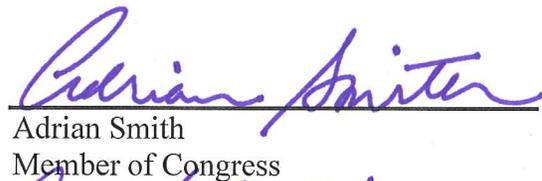

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

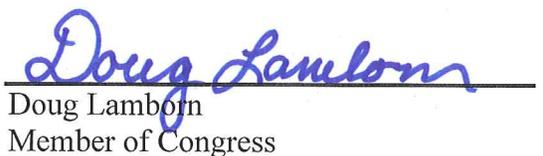

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

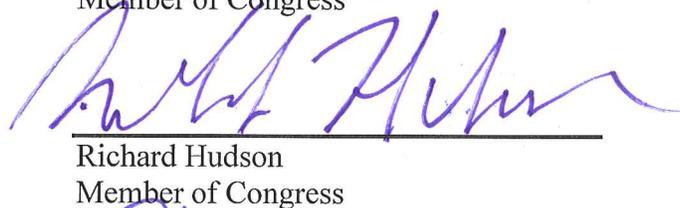

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

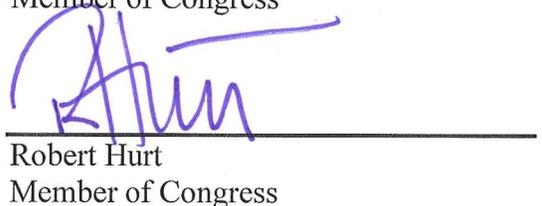

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress


Adrian Smith
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Richard Hudson
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

John Kline

John Kline
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley

David McKinley
Member of Congress

French Hill

French Hill
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Sander Levin

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross

Dennis Ross
Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott

Bobby Scott
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Richie Neal

Richie Neal
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell Jr.

Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Bill Flores

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe

John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

Scott Rigell

Scott Rigell
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Susan Brooks

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Donald Beyer

Donald Beyer
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen

Rick Allen
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Frank Guinta

Frank Guinta
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Carl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Buddy Carter
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas

Frank Lucas
Member of Congress
