

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We want to thank you for your commitment to protect children and their birth families by working to ensure that intercountry adoptions remain as an option for children who would otherwise not be placed for adoptions in their own countries. We would also like to strongly urge you to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Vietnam that addresses concerns surrounding the adoption system in Vietnam.

We strongly share your concern about reported instances of fraud and corruption within Vietnam's adoption system. We share your belief that systematic reform and more effective safeguards are needed to prevent the types of abuses described in your most recent report. Further, we understand that greater cooperation of the Government of Vietnam will be required to address these concerns. Nevertheless, we encourage you to work with the Vietnamese Government to implement proactive measures designed to guard against abuse. Such measures could include a thorough accreditation process for all U.S.-based agencies providing services in Vietnam, increased transparency and accountability with regard to fees, and strengthened laws and procedures for prosecuting individuals found to be complicit in fraudulent behavior.

We believe that signing an interim agreement with Vietnam is consistent with your goal of moving toward a Hague-compliant system, provided that such an agreement would contain enforceable safeguards. We strongly support the transition to a Hague-compliant system in Vietnam. However, we also understand that the establishment of such a system can take years, and it is not in the best interest of children to remain institutionalized or homeless during the period of transition. It is our hope that a properly designed interim agreement could serve as a foundation for the implementation of a Hague-compliant system in the near future.

Madam Secretary, we appreciate the important work that the State Department has done in investigating concerns with the Vietnamese adoption system. It is our hope that we will be able to address these concerns, so that we can continue to find families for these orphans. Accordingly, we ask that you work to resolve these issues and to secure an updated Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam that ensures the integrity of international adoptions between our two countries.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this important humanitarian issue.

Sincerely,

  
Mary L. Landrien  
United States Senator

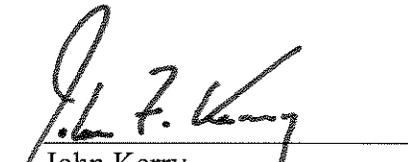
  
Norm Coleman  
United States Senator

  
Ginny Brown-Waite  
Member of Congress

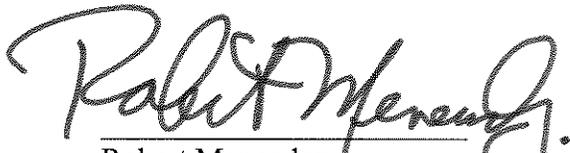
  
James L. Oberstar  
Member of Congress

  
Gordon Smith  
United States Senator

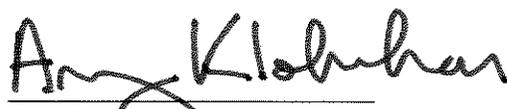
  
Barbara Mikulski  
United States Senator

  
John Kerry  
United States Senator

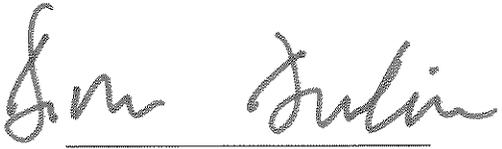
  
James Inhofe  
United States Senator

  
Robert Menendez  
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John Sununu  
United States Senator

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

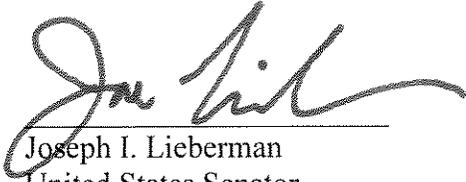
  
Robert Bennett  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
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Carl Levin  
United States Senator



Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senator



Blanche L. Lincoln  
United States Senator



Daniel Inouye  
United States Senator



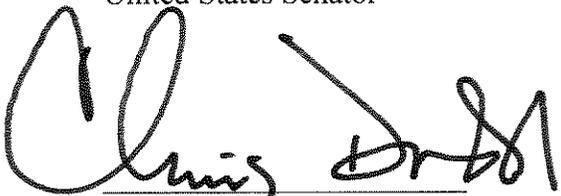
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Kent Conrad  
United States Senator



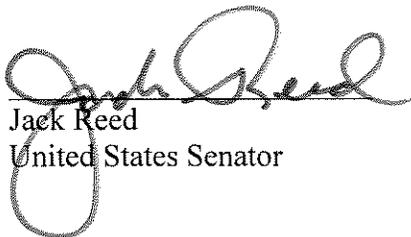
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Christopher Dodd  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



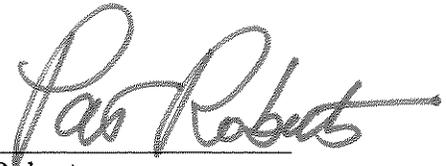
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Bob Corker  
United States Senator



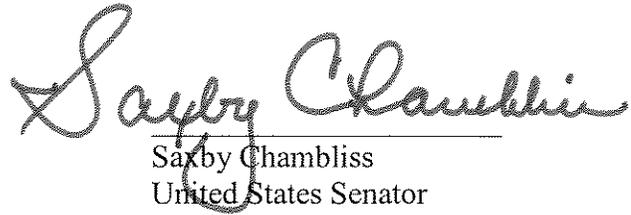
John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
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Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator



Saxby Chambliss  
United States Senator



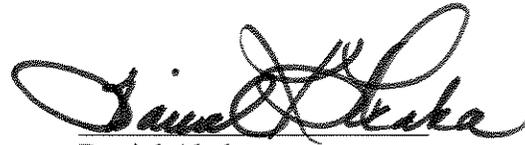
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Frank Lautenberg  
United States Senator



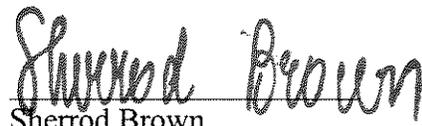
Byron Dorgan  
United States Senator



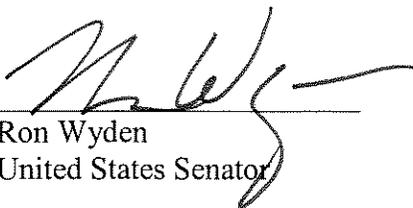
Daniel Akaka  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



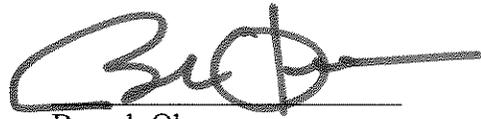
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



George Voinovich  
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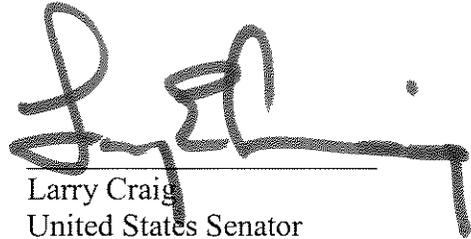
Herb Kohl  
United States Senator



Barack Obama  
United States Senator



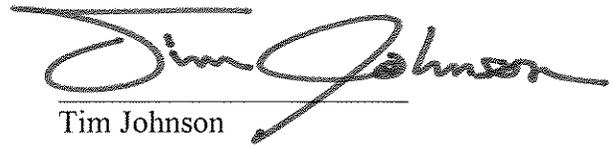
David Vitter  
United States Senator



Larry Craig  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



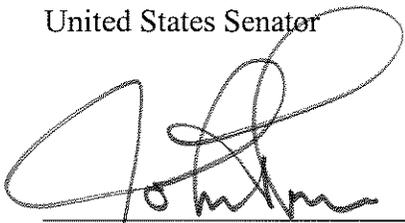
Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



Susan Collins  
United States Senator



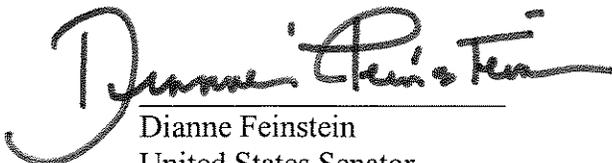
Christopher S. Bond  
United States Senator



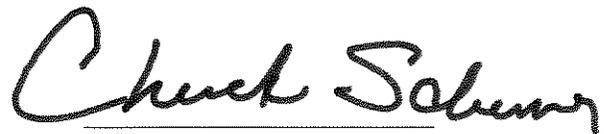
John Thune  
United States Senator



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Charles Schumer  
United States Senator

*Hillary Rodham Clinton*

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator

*Ken Salazar*

Ken Salazar  
United States Senator

*Kay Bailey Hutchison*

Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senator

*Orrin G. Hatch*

Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator

*John Cornyn*

John Cornyn  
United States Senator

*Elizabeth Dole*

Elizabeth Dole  
United States Senator

*Sam Brownback*

Sam Brownback  
United States Senator

*Maria Cantwell*

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

*Evan Bayh*

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*Edward M. Kennedy*

Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senator

*Lamar Alexander*

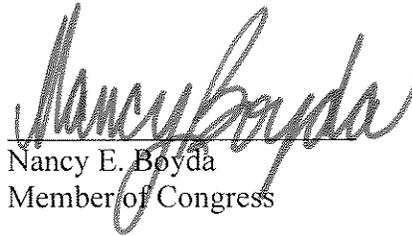
Lamar Alexander  
United States Senator

*Bill Foster*

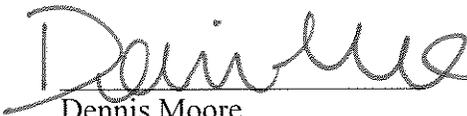
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



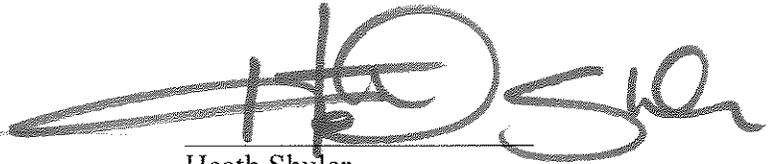
Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



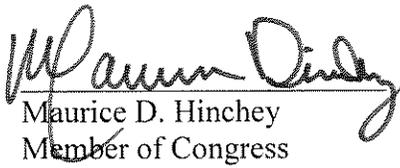
Nancy E. Boyda  
Member of Congress



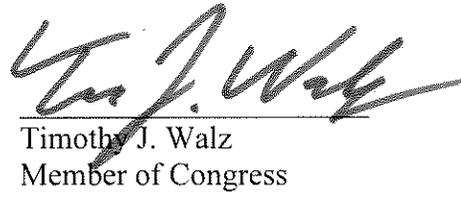
Dennis Moore  
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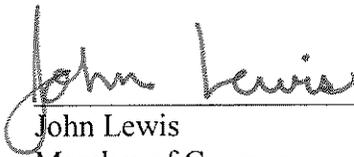
Heath Shuler  
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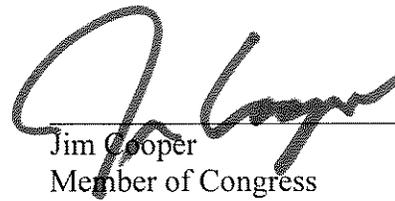
Maurice D. Hinchey  
Member of Congress



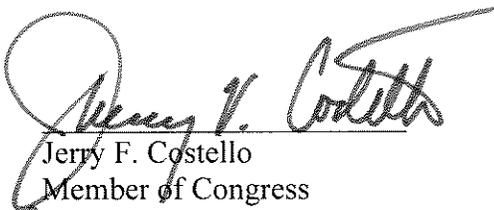
Timothy J. Walz  
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John Lewis  
Member of Congress



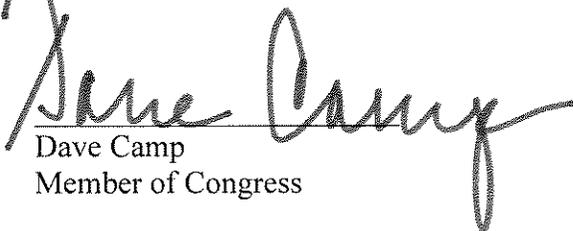
Jim Cooper  
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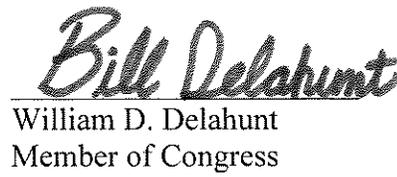
Jerry F. Costello  
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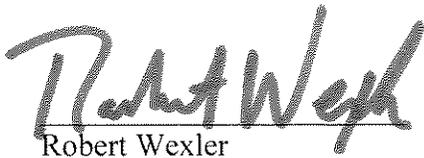
Jim McDermott  
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Dave Camp  
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William D. Delahunt  
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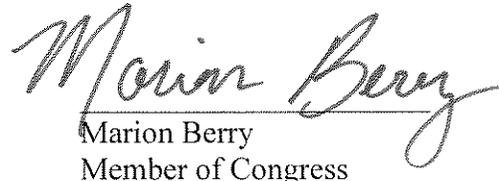
Robert Wexler  
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John Boozman  
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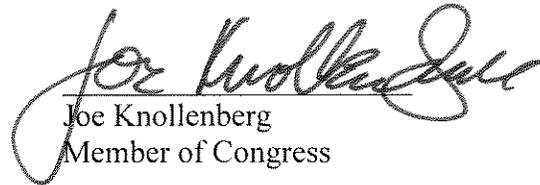
Henry E. Brown, Jr.  
Member of Congress



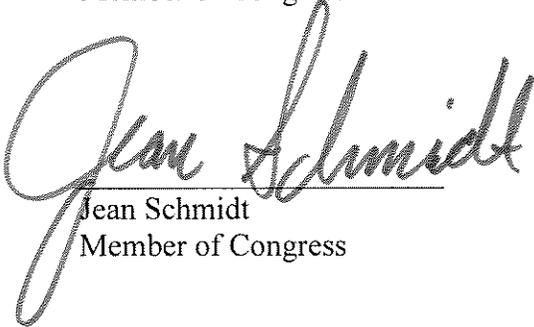
Marion Berry  
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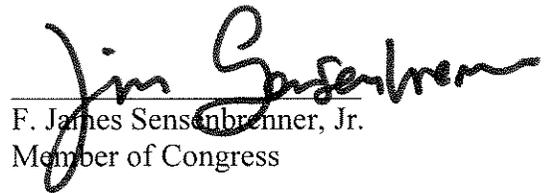
Dan Burton  
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Joe Knollenberg  
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Jean Schmidt  
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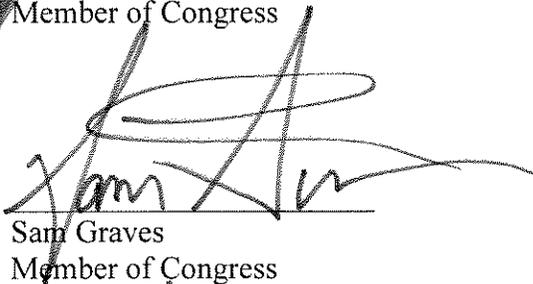
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
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Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



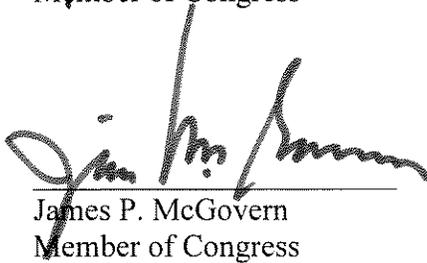
Peter T. King  
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Sam Graves  
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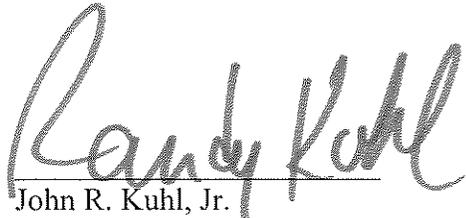
Shelley Moore Capito  
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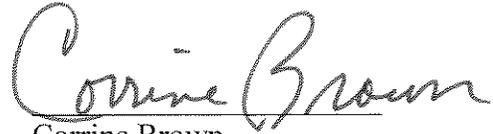


James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress

  
John R. Kuhl, Jr.  
Member of Congress

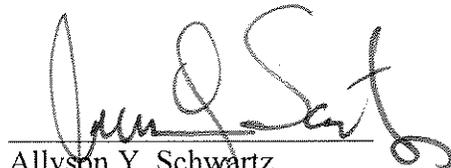
  
Corrine Brown  
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

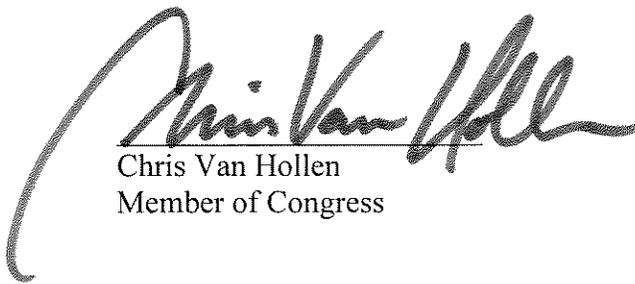
  
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
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Keith Ellison  
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John A. Yarmuth  
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Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress

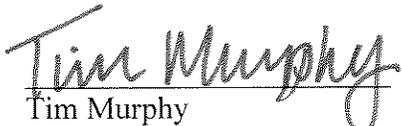
  
Marilyn N. Musgrave  
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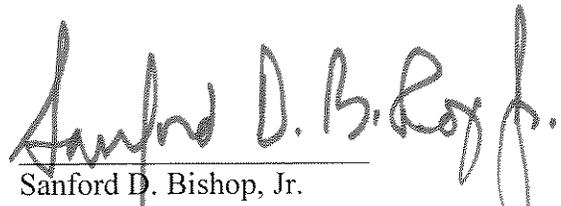
  
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Brad Miller  
Member of Congress

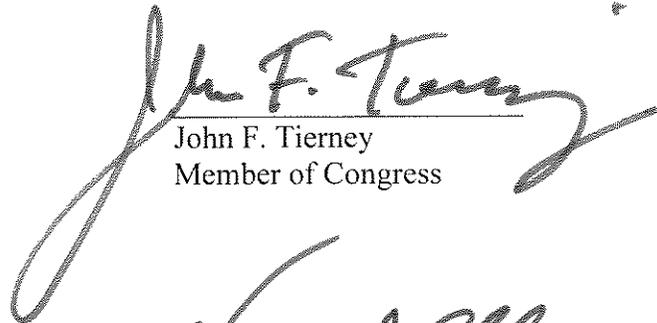
  
Madeline Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Udall  
Member of Congress

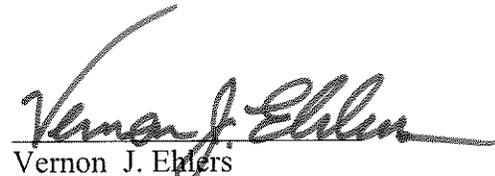
  
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

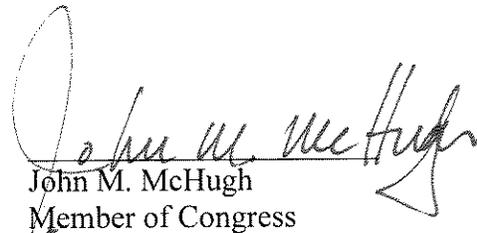
  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

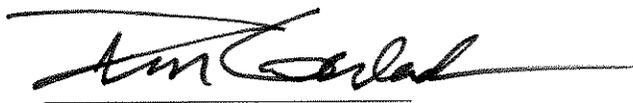
  
John F. Tierney  
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John Kline  
Member of Congress

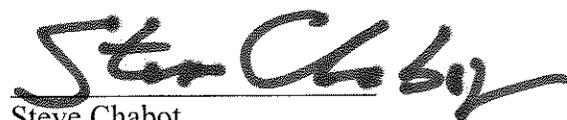
  
Vernon J. Eiders  
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Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress

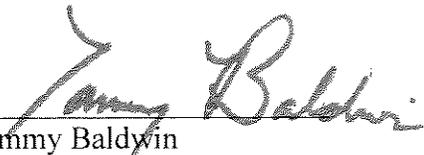
  
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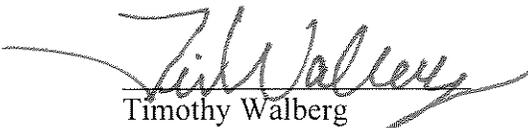
  
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Steve R. Rothman  
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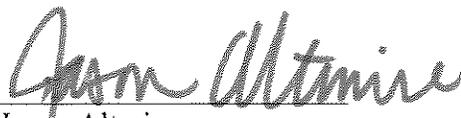
  
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

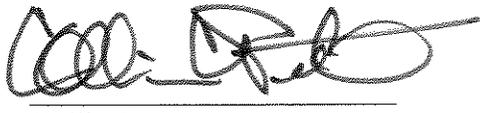
  
Betty McCollum  
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Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

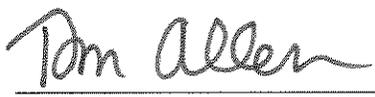
  
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Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

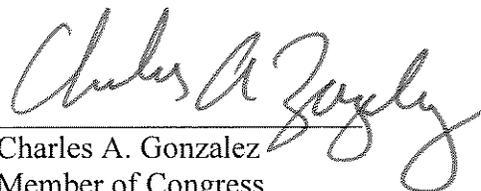
  
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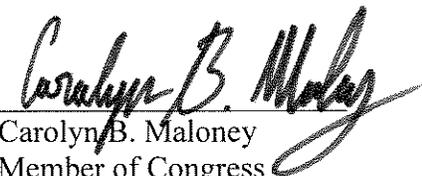
  
Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

  
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas H. Allen  
Member of Congress

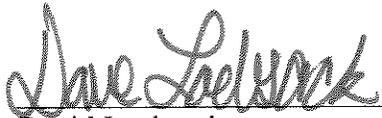
  
Zachary T. Space  
Member of Congress

  
Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



David Loeb sack  
Member of Congress



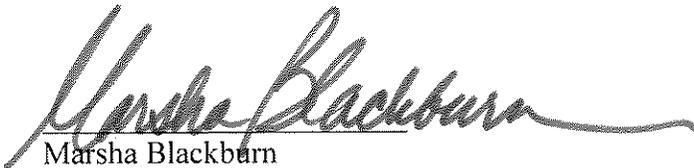
Doug Lamborn  
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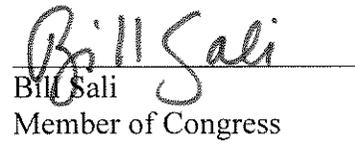
Brad Ellsworth  
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Joe Sestak  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



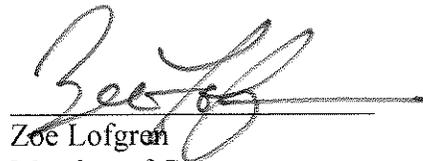
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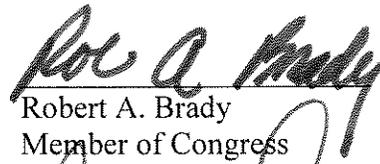
Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress



W. Todd Akin  
Member of Congress



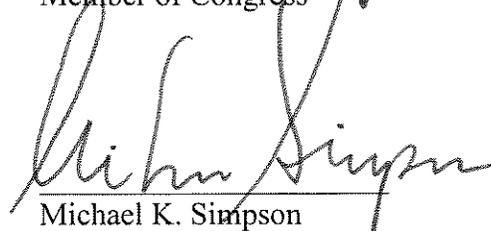
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



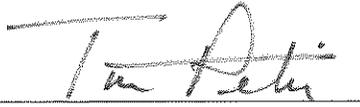
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson  
Member of Congress



Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress



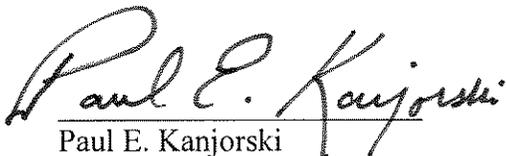
Ander Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



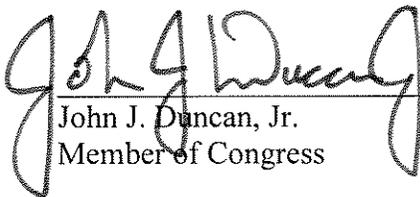
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Paul E. Kanjorski  
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Member of Congress

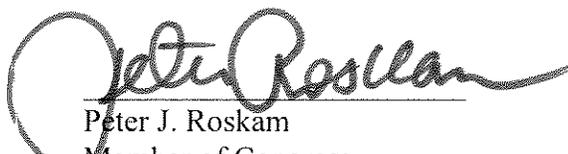


John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Etheridge  
Member of Congress

  
Barnes Frank  
Member of Congress

  
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress

  
Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
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