

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

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Room HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting life-saving programs to remove ordnance, mines, and other explosive remnants of war left on battlefields around the world. We write to respectfully request that the Committee support \$290,000,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) programs within the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) account at the U.S. Department of State. Over the past several years, we have been pleased to see strong support for CWD programs from Congress. However, additional resources are needed for valuable global humanitarian demining and weapons security programs. Underfunding these life-saving programs could jeopardize the goal of eliminating U.S. legacy ordnance in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia and slow progress toward creating a mine-free Sri Lanka, Angola, and Zimbabwe. Additional demining funds are also needed to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Ukraine already contained significant landmine and explosive contamination in the eastern region prior to Russia's further invasion in February 2022. Now, an estimated one third of the country contains landmines and unexploded bombs, including in major population centers that will threaten civilians for decades to come. Civilian casualties will likely continue to rise as displaced civilians return to areas previously occupied by Russia and seek to rebuild their lives. Demining is also essential for farming and to make safe critical infrastructure. Sustained funding is needed to enable the elimination of these deadly devices as soon as possible.

Since the end of Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war in 2009, U.S. demining assistance has been critical to allowing hundreds of thousands of displaced families to return to their homes and develop their land. U.S. demining efforts have also enabled the reopening of schools and hospitals, the reconstruction of thousands of homes, and the reconstruction of the Jaffna railway – enabling access to Sri Lanka's northern ports. More than 281,000 mines have already been destroyed, and increased funding will keep Sri Lanka on track to be mine-impact free in the near future.

Landmines in Angola have injured more than 80,000 people since they were used in its civil war between 1975 and 2002, but with the help of U.S. foreign assistance, over 113,000 landmines have been destroyed. Continued destruction of these lethal hazards in Angola enables local economic development, particularly in the Okavango Delta region where the U.S. is working with the Angolan government to establish an eco-tourism industry.

Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia remain heavily impacted by U.S. legacy cluster bombs and other explosive hazards. Laos is the most heavily bombed country in history and has suffered an estimated 50,000 casualties from explosive remnants of war. Cambodia, which contains additional significant landmine contamination, has suffered over 65,000 casualties from explosive hazards since 1964. In Vietnam, at least 105,000 casualties from explosive threats have been recorded. More resources are needed to remove this deadly detritus of war, demonstrate continued resolve for removing U.S. legacy ordnance, and strengthen diplomatic relations.

Zimbabwe is one of the most highly mine-impacted countries in the world, with dense, unfenced minefields close to houses, schools and clinics that in many cases separate communities from their only viable source of water. Increased support for demining in Zimbabwe will aid in economic development and help reach the goal of a mine-impact free Zimbabwe in the near future.

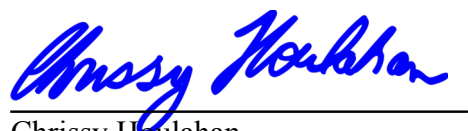
We urge the subcommittee to include the following report language for the CWD account:

*“The Committee recommendation includes \$290,000,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction programs, of which \$80,000,000 is for programs in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The Committee recommendation also includes additional funds above the prior year’s level for programs in Sri Lanka, Angola, and Zimbabwe, and sustained support for demining activities in Ukraine.”*

We are confident that if we maintain our commitment to demining and cluster munition removal efforts around the world – especially in Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Angola, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe – we can create a safer and more prosperous mine and cluster munition-free world.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



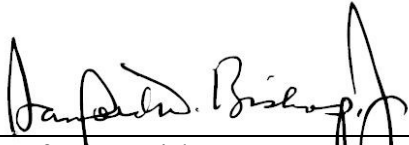
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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



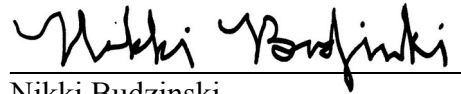
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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



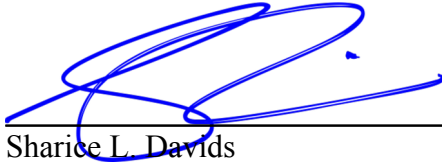
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



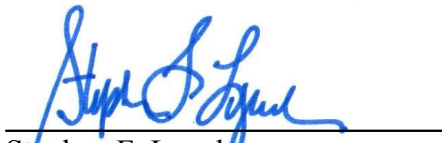
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



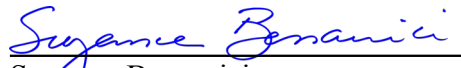
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



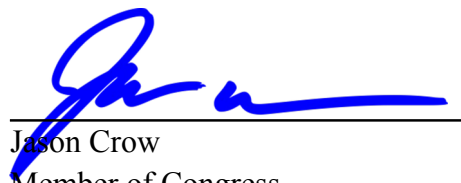
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress




Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



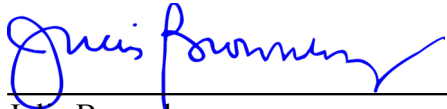
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



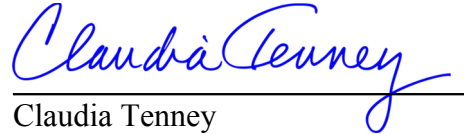
Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
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Carol D. Miller  
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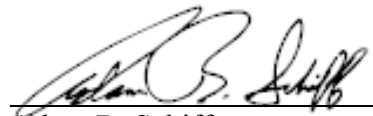
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



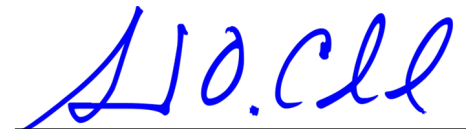
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen  
Member of Congress



Jil Tokuda  
Member of Congress



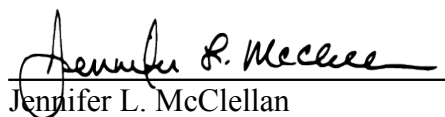
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



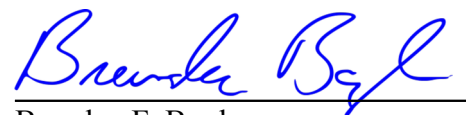
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



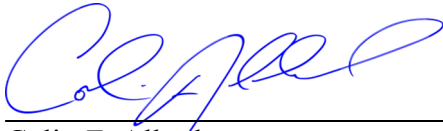
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



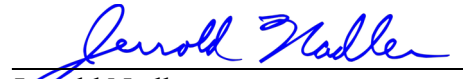
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



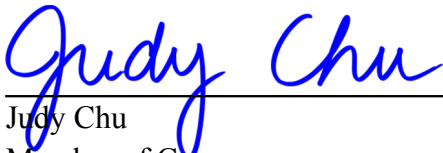
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



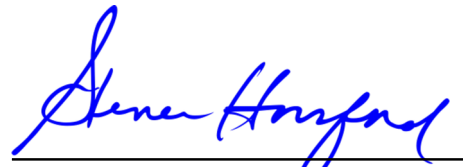
Summer Lee  
Member of Congress



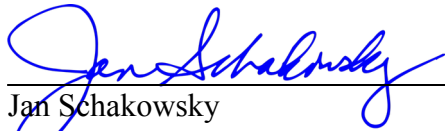
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



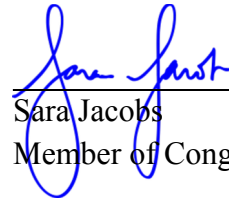
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



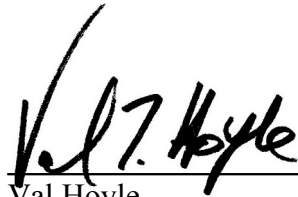
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



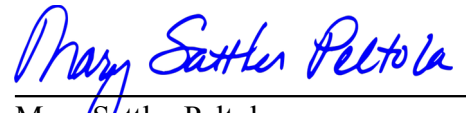
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



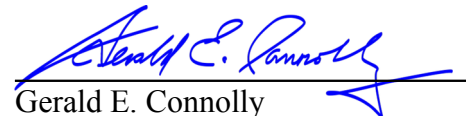
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



Mary Sattler Peltola  
Member of Congress



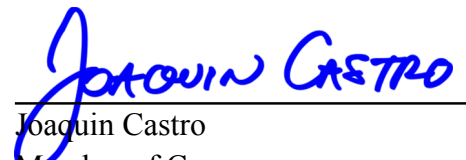
Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



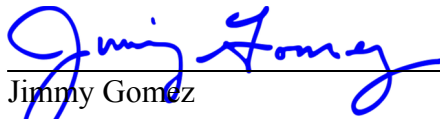
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



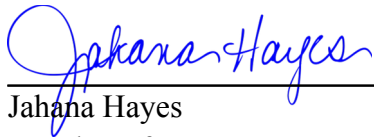
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



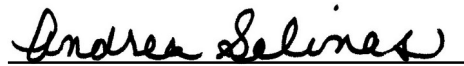
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



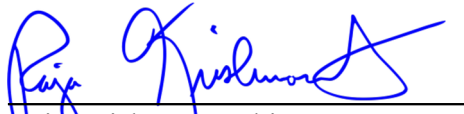
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



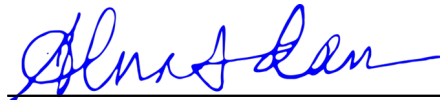
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



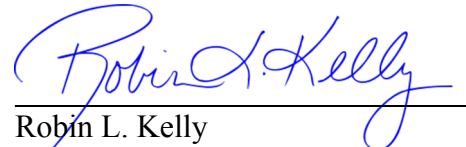
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress





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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress




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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress




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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
Member of Congress




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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress




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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

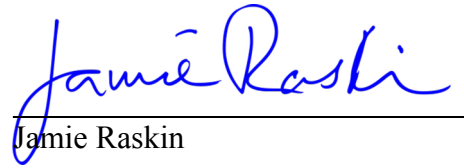


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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress




Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



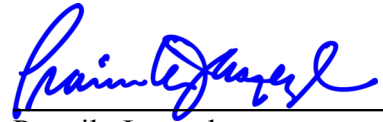
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



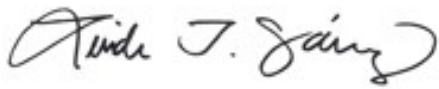
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



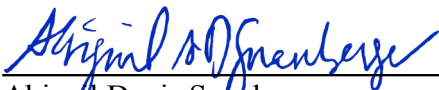
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



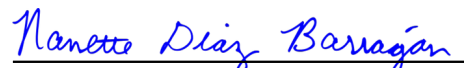
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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



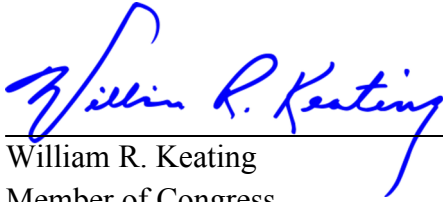
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



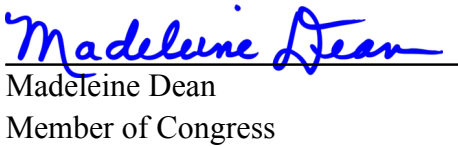
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



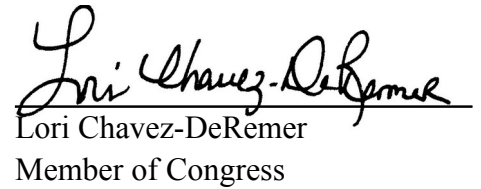
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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



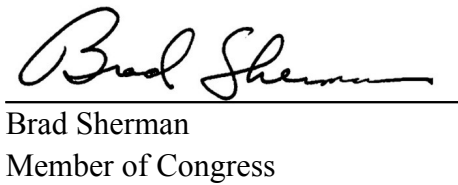
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



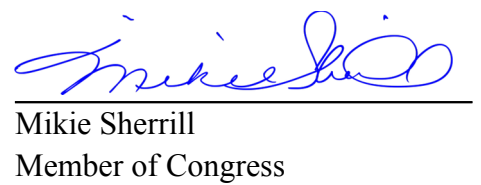
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Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress



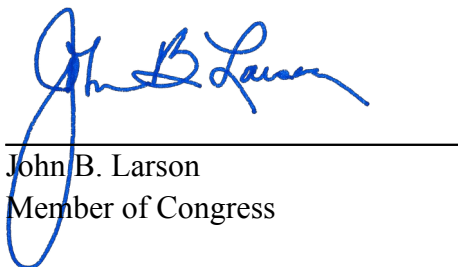
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



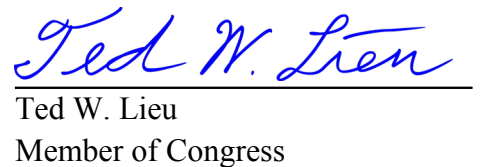
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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



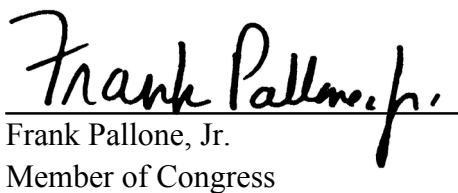
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



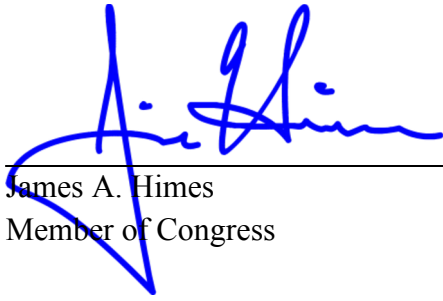
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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



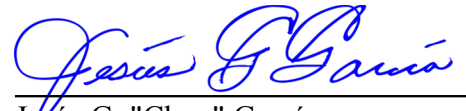
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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



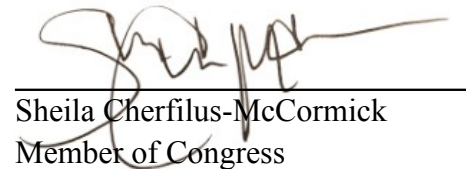
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress




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Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



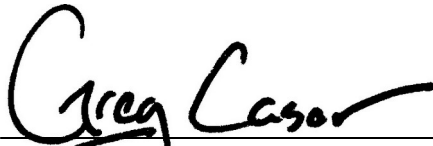
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Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



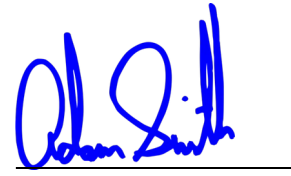
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress




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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



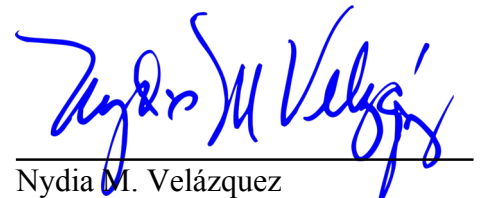
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress




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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



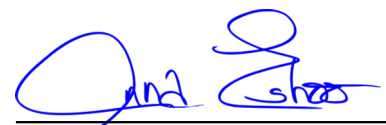
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress




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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress




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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Ranking Member  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



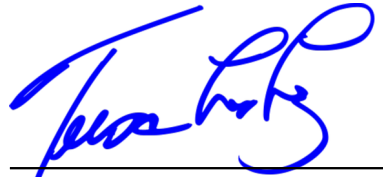
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



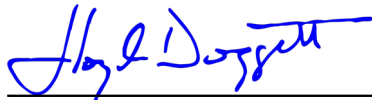
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Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress