

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston,

We respectfully ask that you allocate \$175 million in the FY09 Agriculture Appropriations Bill for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The CSFP provides monthly nutritional aid packages to 473,473 low-income seniors, women and children. Unfortunately, the President's Budget again targeted the program for elimination.

The CSFP provides nutritious food boxes that are designed to meet the dietary needs of seniors, women, infants, and children in 32 states, two Indian Tribal Organizations and the District of Columbia. In FY07, 93 percent of recipients of the program were elderly individuals, all with income levels at or below \$13,273 per year. For home-bound seniors and those lacking access to transportation the CSFP has the added benefit of providing food box delivery directly to homes.

As in the FY08 Administration budget proposal, this year's proposal would have current recipients enroll in a transitional food stamp program once the CSFP is eliminated. For these indigent recipients, food stamps vouchers are not an acceptable replacement to the program. The CSFP packages are often a supplement to one's food stamp benefit. Eliminating the program would endanger the health of home-bound individuals and would mean many seniors would see a monthly food benefit of only \$20. The CSFP food packages that enrollees currently receive have a retail value of approximately \$50.

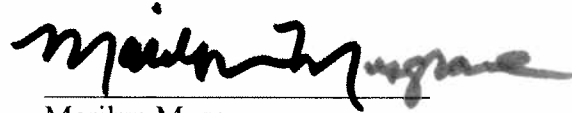
Despite the Bush Administration's FY08 recommendation to terminate the program, Congress funded the CSFP at \$139.7 million. In order to continue and expand service to those challenged by hunger, we request that you fund this program at \$175 million, the amount requested by the National CSFP Association, in FY09. This funding level would allow the program to expand to five additional states and would serve an additional 116,000 individuals in states with existing CSFP programs.

The CSFP is not a luxury: rather it is a necessity to prevent hundreds of thousands of seniors, women and children from going hungry throughout the country. We urge you to keep these individuals in mind as you consider appropriations requests.

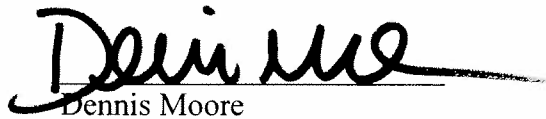
Sincerely,



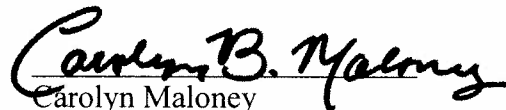
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Marilyn Musgrave
Member of Congress



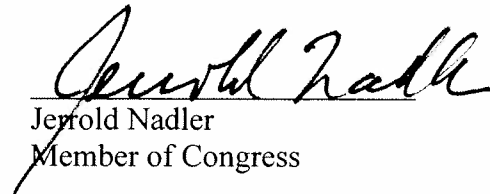
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



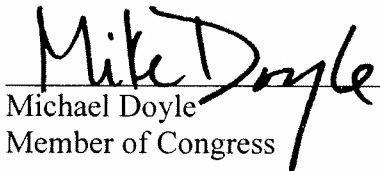
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



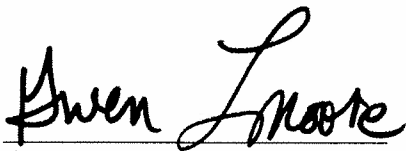
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



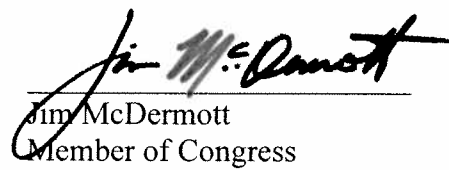
Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



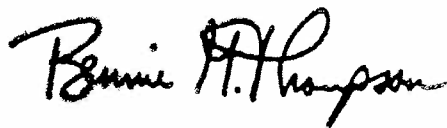
Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



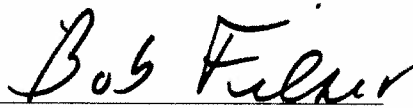
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



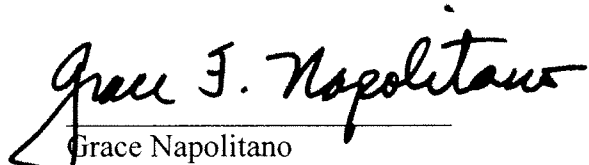
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



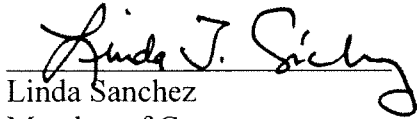
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



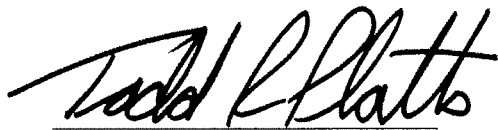
Charles Wilson
Member of Congress



Brad Miller
Member of Congress



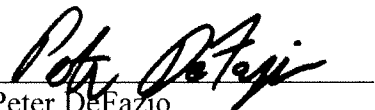
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



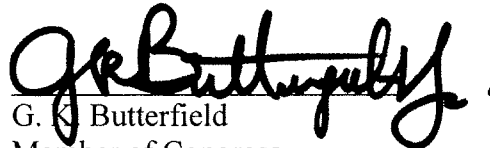
Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



Steven Kagen
Member of Congress



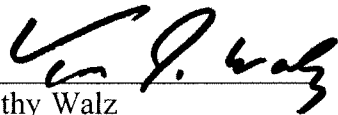
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



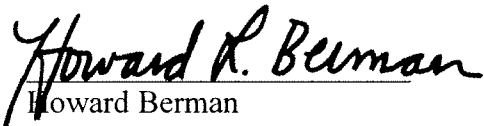
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Timothy Walz
Member of Congress



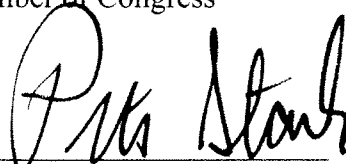
Howard Berman
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



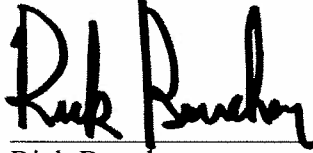
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



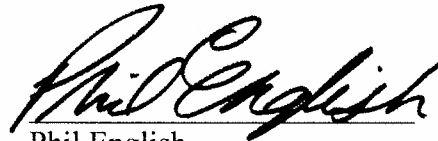
Rick Boucher
Member of Congress



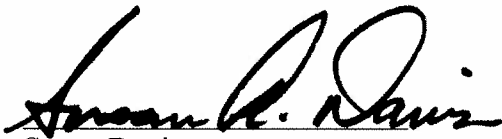
Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



Ike Skelton
Member of Congress



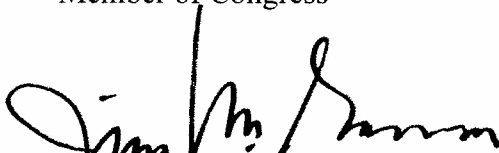
Phil English
Member of Congress



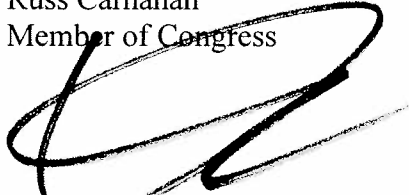
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



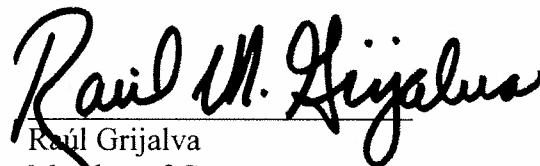
James McGovern
Member of Congress



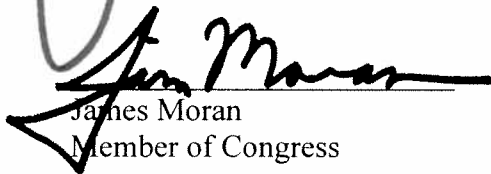
David Wu
Member of Congress



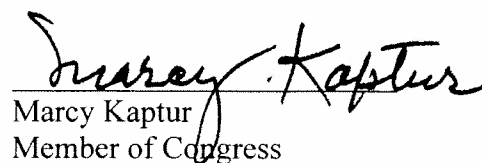
Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



James Moran
Member of Congress




Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

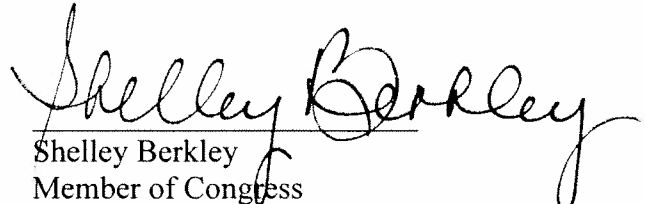


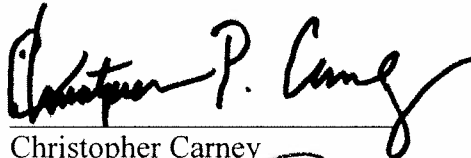
Lois Capps
Member of Congress




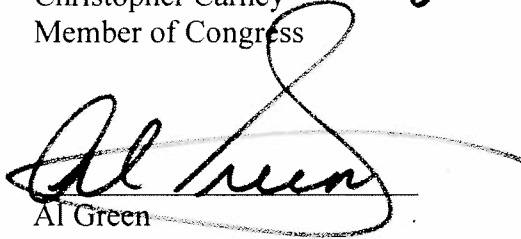
Joe Baca
Member of Congress

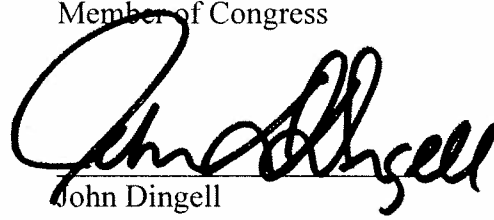

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

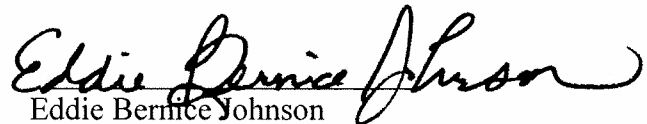

Christopher Carney
Member of Congress

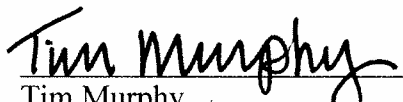

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


John Dingell
Member of Congress

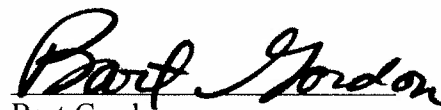

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

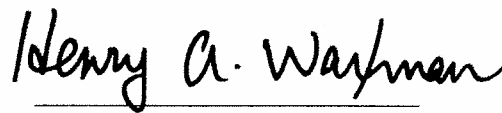

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Jason Altmire
Member of Congress


Bart Gordon
Member of Congress

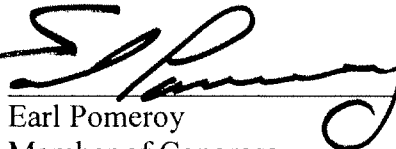

David Scott
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

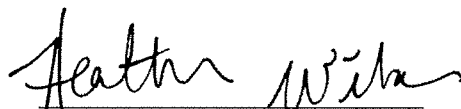

William Delahunt
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Dale E. Wilson
Member of Congress



Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress

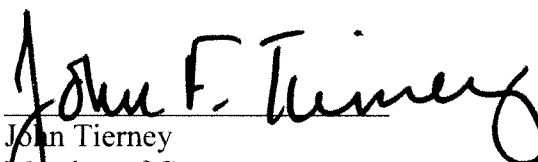

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Heather Wilson
Member of Congress

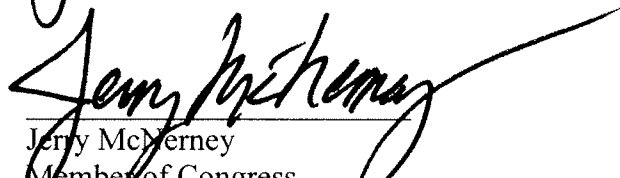

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

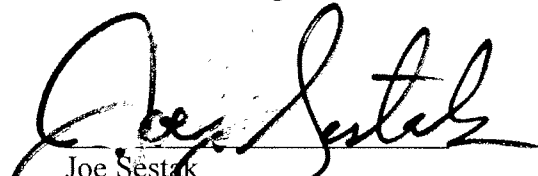

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Thomas Allen
Member of Congress

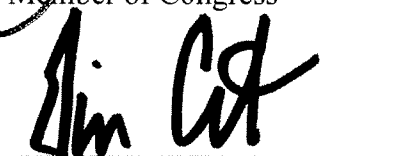

John Tierney
Member of Congress



Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Jerry McInerney
Member of Congress

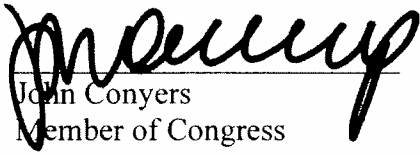

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

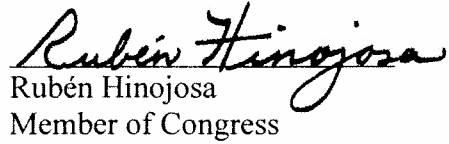

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

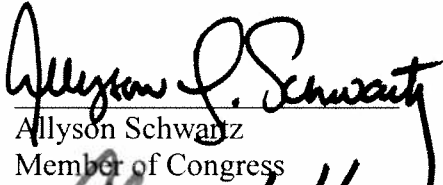

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

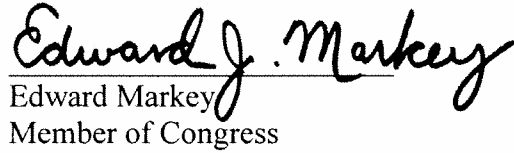

Albert R. Wynn
Member of Congress

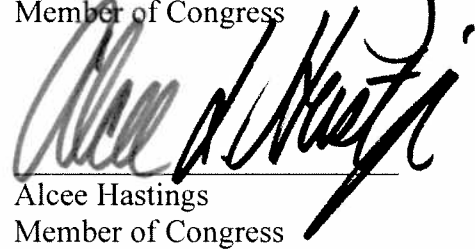

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

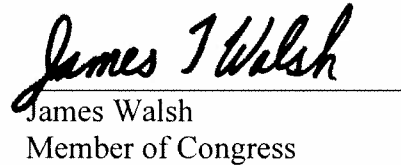

John Conyers
Member of Congress


Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

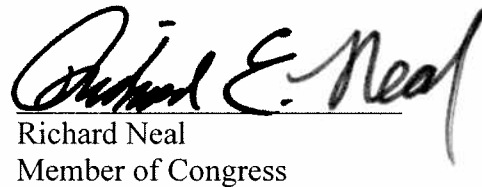

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

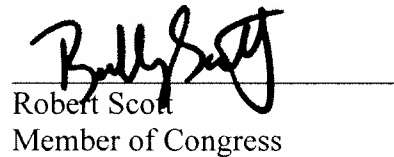

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

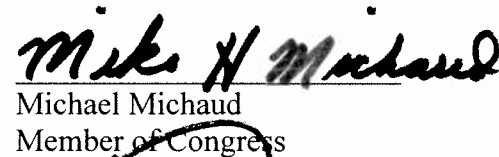

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

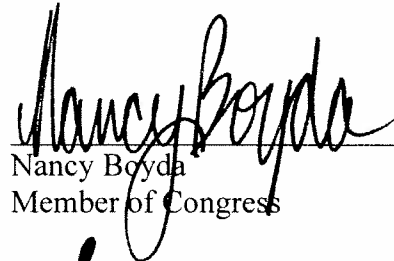

James Walsh
Member of Congress

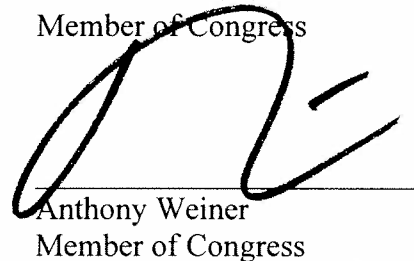

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

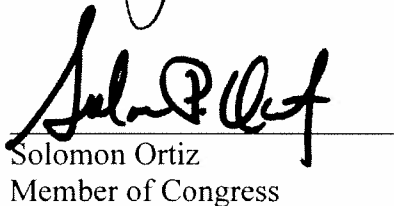

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

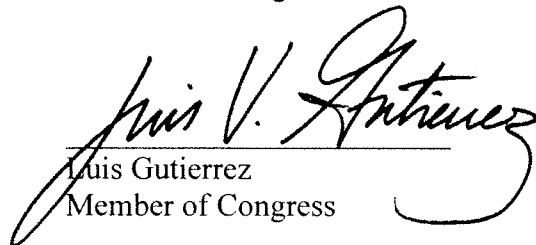

Robert Scott
Member of Congress

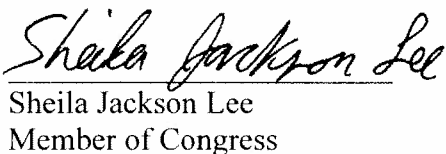

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

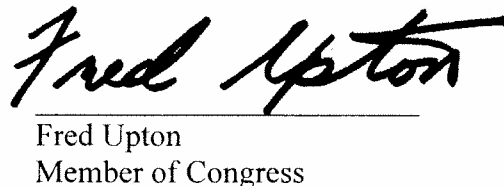

Nancy Boyda
Member of Congress

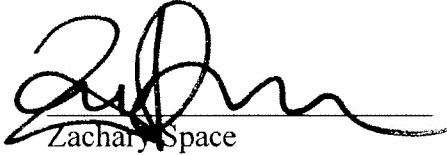

Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress

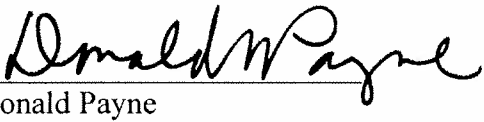

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress



Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress

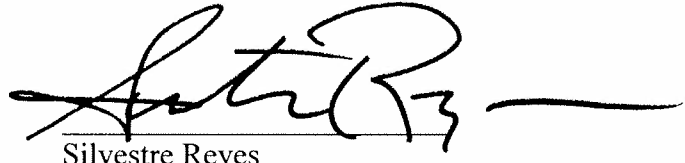

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

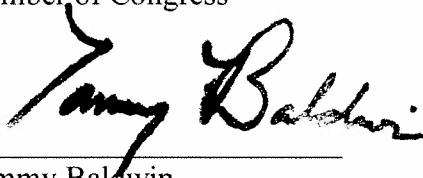

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

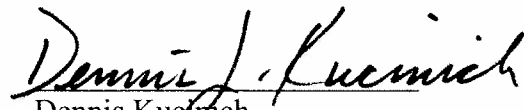

Zachary Space
Member of Congress

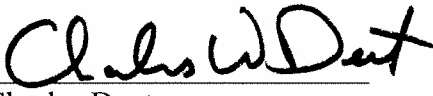

Donald Payne
Member of Congress

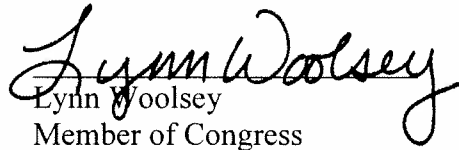

Bart Stupak
Member of Congress

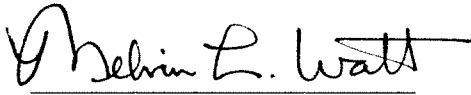

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

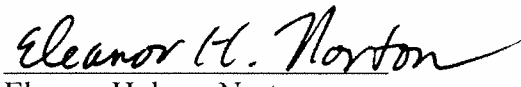

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

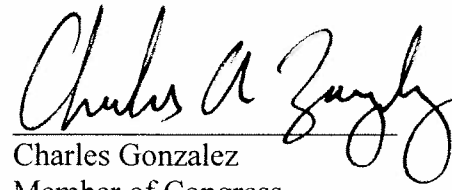

Charles Dent
Member of Congress

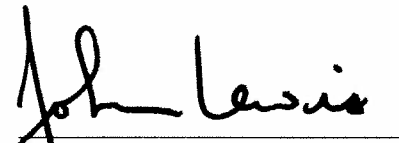

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

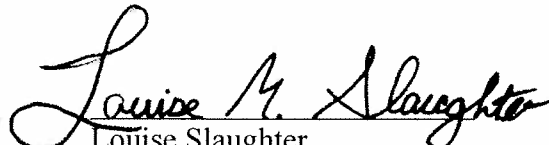

Melvin Watt
Member of Congress

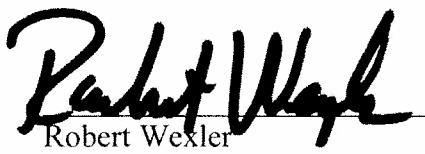

William Jefferson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress


Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

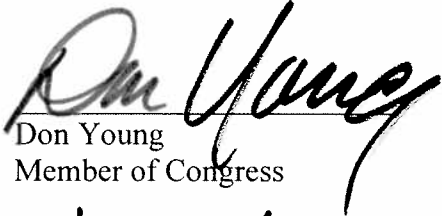

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress



Jim McCrery
Member of Congress



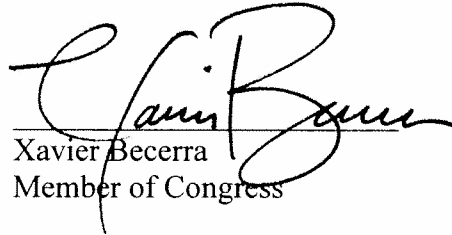
Don Young
Member of Congress



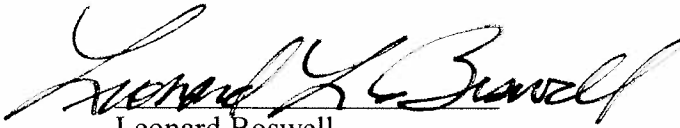
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Jane Harman
Member of Congress



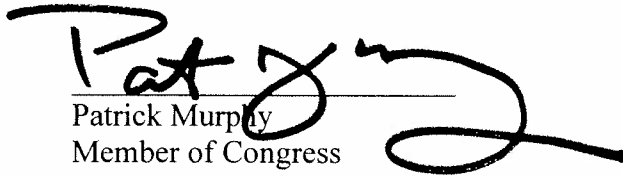
Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



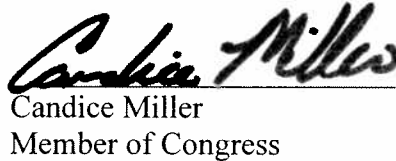
Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



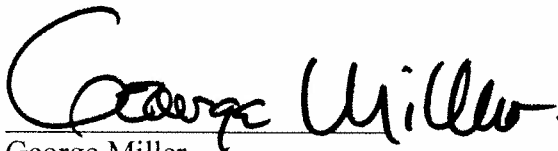
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



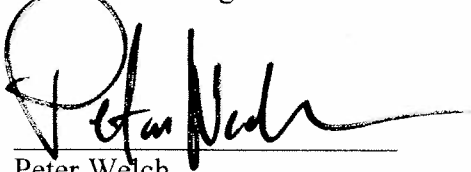
Candice Miller
Member of Congress



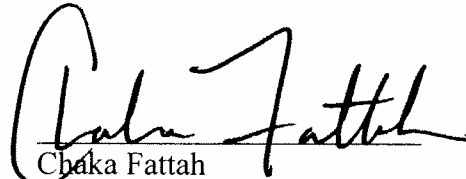
George Miller
Member of Congress



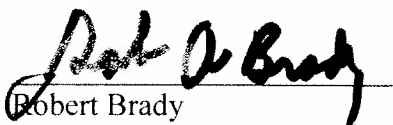
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



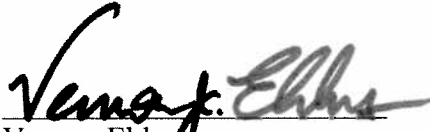
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

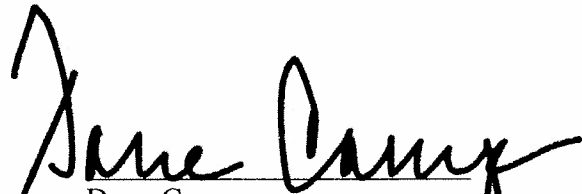



Robert Brady
Member of Congress

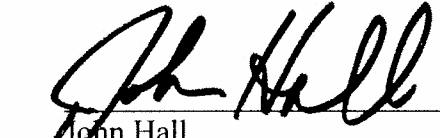


Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Vernon Ehlers
Member of Congress


Dave Camp
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress


John Hall
Member of Congress


Tim Holden
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress