

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

October 7, 2025

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to condemn the Department of Energy's (DOE) termination of 321 financial awards, supporting 223 projects supporting energy resilience across the country. We are deeply concerned about your Department's attempt to rebrand the elimination of U.S. clean energy as "\$7.56 billion in savings" to taxpayers¹ and the potential political motivations behind the targeting of projects in Democratic-leaning states.

This decision is a reversal of properly awarded projects that will harm American jobs, drive private capital out of our country, weaken our power grid, and give China a strategic edge. This Administration's decision to play political games will result in genuine harm at a time when millions of American families are already struggling to pay their electricity bills amidst the ever-rising cost of living. These blatantly partisan cancellations must immediately be reversed.

The projects that the Department of Energy (DOE) has unilaterally decided to cancel were driving down costs for *all* our constituents—regardless of their political affiliation. Household electric bills have already increased 10% nationally since January 2025 and are poised to spike even further.² This Administration's reckless energy policy and award terminations, designed to stifle the development of cheap clean energy and prop up more expensive dirty energy, will only further increase the cost burden for families to keep the lights on.

Your press statement claims these projects "did not adequately advance the nation's energy needs, were not economically viable, and would not provide a positive return on investment."³ That is a pretext for cancellations that track political talking points, not facts. Many of these awards had already passed rigorous review, and many of those had already been processed. Companies hired workers, signed contracts, broke ground, and put up private capital in reliance on DOE commitments. Calling that "savings" ignores stranded equipment orders, canceled subcontracts, and layoffs—real costs that ripple through American supply chains. Instead of executing Congress's direction to build U.S. energy leadership and grid reliability, DOE is moving the goalposts while terminating the very projects that would deliver results.

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-termination-223-projects-saving-over-75-billion>

² U.S. Energy Information Administration, https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=table_5_03

³ U.S. Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-termination-223-projects-saving-over-75-billion>

The consequences of these actions are significant: cancellations will shutter facilities, kill jobs, and stall critical domestic manufacturing. They also inject avoidable uncertainty into energy markets—forcing investors to consider political risks that you have created, which raises financing costs. Terminating grid and manufacturing projects locks in congestion and supply-chain bottlenecks, which will lead to higher long-term electricity prices for households and businesses.

We are at a moment of unprecedented growth in electricity demand, which is expected to increase by 25% by 2030.⁴ At a time when more energy supply is needed than ever, these cuts will only exacerbate upward pressure on electricity prices by stranding low-cost supply, delaying grid expansion, and increasing reliance on higher-cost imports. In your confirmation hearing, you pledged to pursue “all sources of affordable, reliable energy” to meet these challenges. By terminating awards for cheap energy solutions and those that strengthen the grid, you are going against your word and worsening the very problem you promised to help solve.

Eliminating the Grid Deployment Office and Office of Clean Energy Deployment projects delays transmission and weakens grid resilience, a shortsighted decision that threatens even steeper increasing costs to American consumers and businesses in the future. Additionally, these so-called “savings” waste sunk federal and state dollars and betray disadvantaged communities by erasing critical work to reduce pollution and improve energy affordability.

Fifteen years ago, China generated less electricity than the United States. Today, China generates more than twice as much as we do—and the gap continues to grow.⁵ As China and other nations continue to innovate and build the energy technologies of the future, this is precisely the wrong time for the U.S. to back out and cede our technological leadership. The rest of the world will continue to innovate with or without us, and these grant terminations will only set our innovation back at a pivotal time.

It is difficult for us to believe that these project terminations were anything but a partisan targeting of states that are not politically aligned with this Administration. These terminations undermine the spirit of competitive, merit-based awards and throw into question the fairness of the award process under this Administration.

As such, we demand that DOE take the following immediate actions by Tuesday, October 14, 2025:

1. Suspend all terminations and de-obligations and reinstate the projects.
2. Provide a complete list of affected awards (office, recipient, state, award number, selection date, federal obligation, non-federal cost share, milestone status) along with the project-specific written justification for termination.

⁴ ICF, <https://www.icf.com/insights/energy/electricity-demand-expected-to-grow>

⁵ Our World in Data, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/electricity-generation>

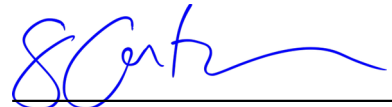
3. Identify the specific statutory and regulatory authorities relied upon for these mass post-award terminations.
4. Preserve and provide all Department of Energy records, memoranda, and communications related to the review and termination of these awards, including those resulting from the May 2025 Secretarial memorandum “Ensuring Responsibility for Financial Assistance.”
5. Describe DOE’s process for recipient appeals and dispute resolution, including timelines, decision-makers, and whether interim funding will be permitted to avoid waste while appeals are pending.

Dismantling America’s advanced-energy buildout under the banner of “savings” does not protect taxpayers—it subsidizes our competitors. It means higher bills and fewer American jobs. We will utilize every oversight and legislative tool available to ensure the DOE follows the law, honors congressional intent, and keeps the United States at the forefront of the global energy race.

Sincerely,



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



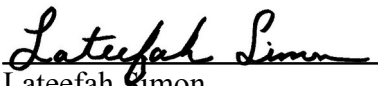
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



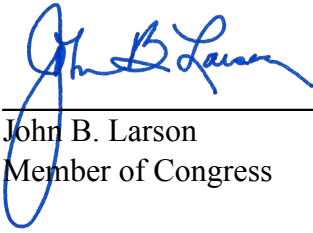
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



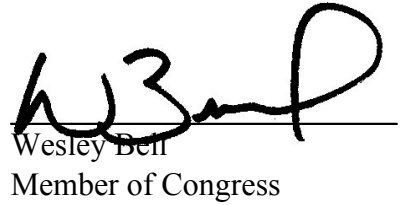
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



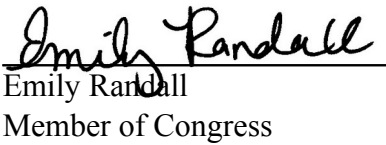
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



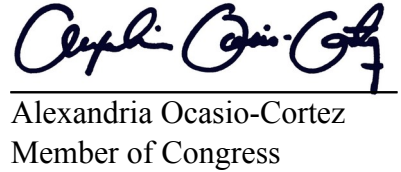
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



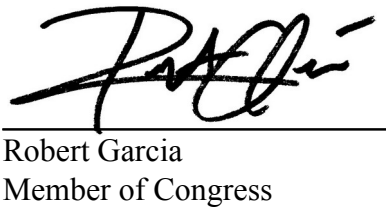
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



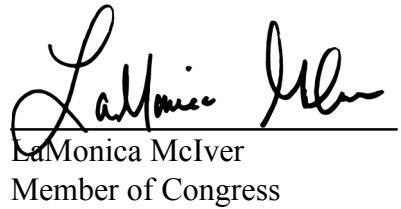
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



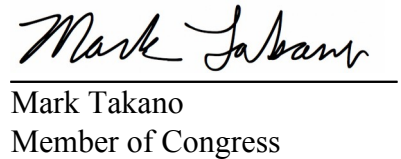
Robert Garcia
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LaMonica McIver
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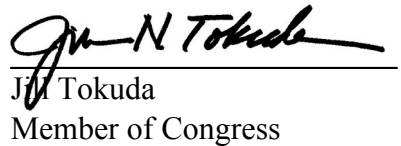
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



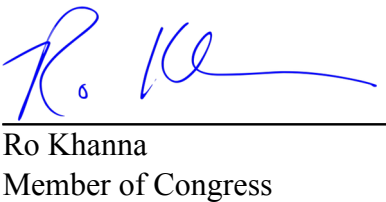
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



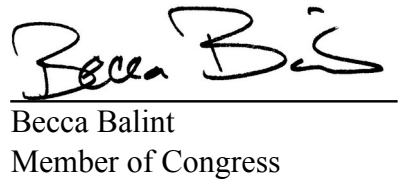
Nellie Pou
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Jim Tokuda
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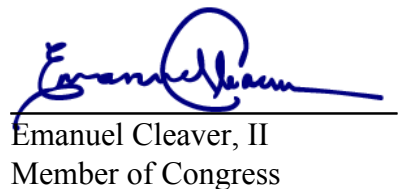
Ro Khanna
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Becca Balint
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Delia C. Ramirez
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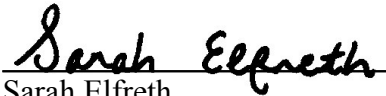
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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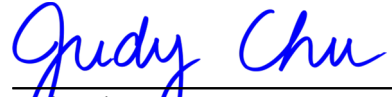
Derek T. Tran
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Sarah Elfreth
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Judy Chu
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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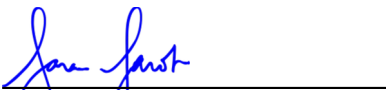
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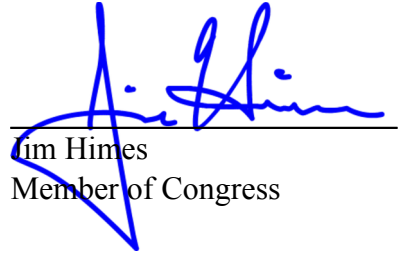
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Josh Harder
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Dave Min
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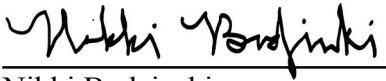
Jim Himes
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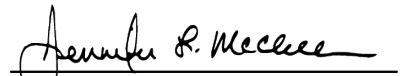
Nikki Budzinski
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Salud Carbajal
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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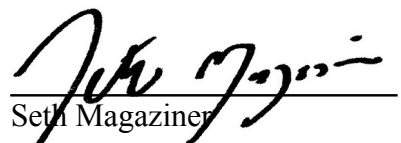
Mark DeSaulnier
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Lori Trahan
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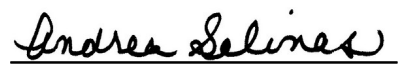
Chrissy Houlahan
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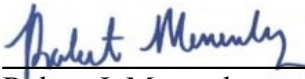
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



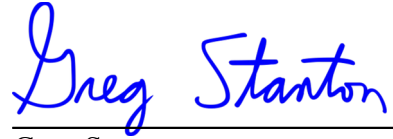
Yassamin Ansari
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Andrea Salinas
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Robert J. Menendez
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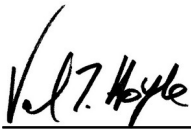
Greg Stanton
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Juan Vargas
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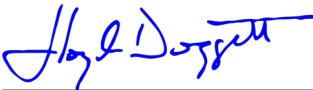
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



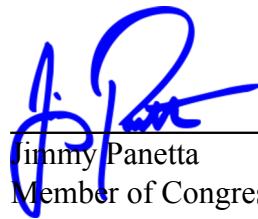
Val Hoyle
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Sarah McBride
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Lloyd Doggett
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Jimmy Panetta
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



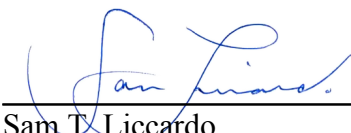
Maggie Goodlander
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Doris Matsui
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Sam T. Liccardo
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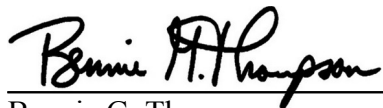
Rick Larsen
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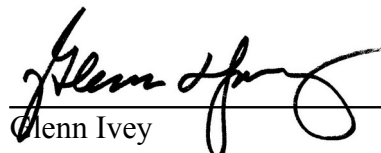
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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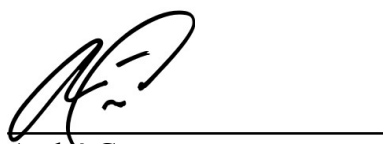
Danny K. Davis
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Bennie G. Thompson
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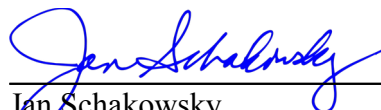
André Carson
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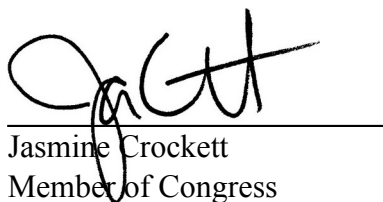
Seth Moulton
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Jasmine Crockett
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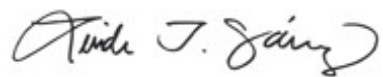
Scott H. Peters
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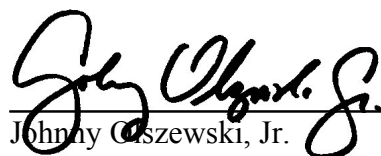
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Eugene Simon Vindman
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Linda T. Sánchez
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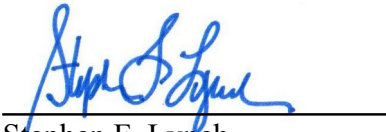
Eric Sorensen
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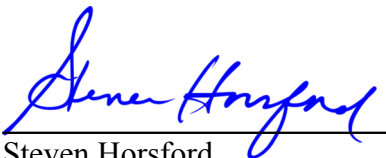
Joe Neguse
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Gabe Vasquez
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Brittany Petersen
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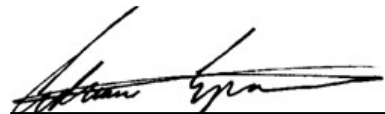
Josh Gottheimer
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Betty McCollum
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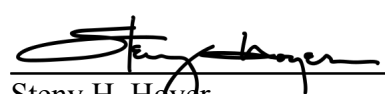
Nydia M. Velázquez
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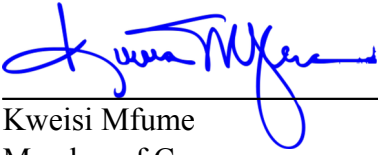
Adriano Espaillat
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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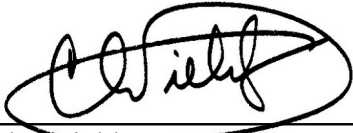
Steny H. Hoyer
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Kweisi Mfume
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Bill Foster
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Cleo Fields
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Greg Landsman
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Brad Sherman
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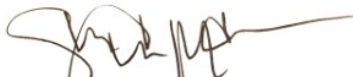
Madeleine Dean
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Richard E. Neal
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Diana DeGette
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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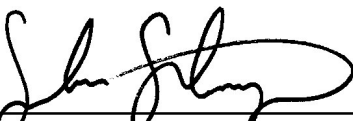
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



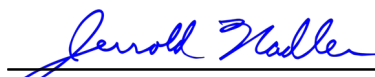
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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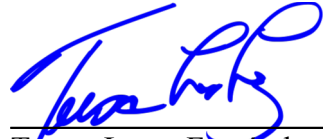
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Susie Lee
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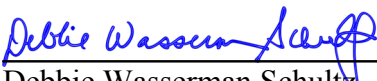
Dwight Evans
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George Latimer
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



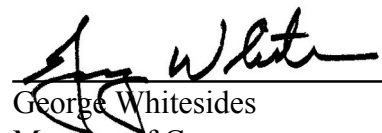
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
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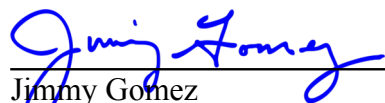
Chris Pappas
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Marilyn Strickland
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Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



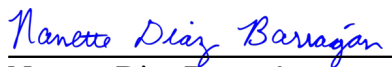
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



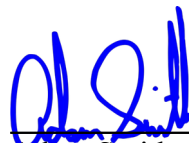
Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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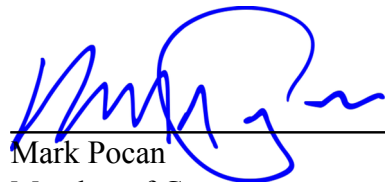
Summer L. Lee
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Darren Soto
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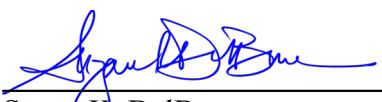
Mark Pocan
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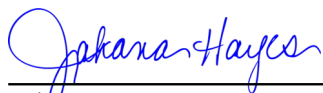
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



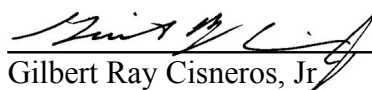
Suzan K. DelBene
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Gabe Amo
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Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



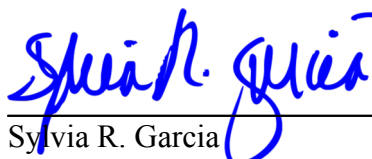
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Eric Swalwell
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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Al Green
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Norma J. Torres
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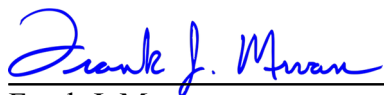
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



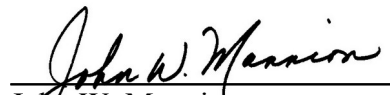
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



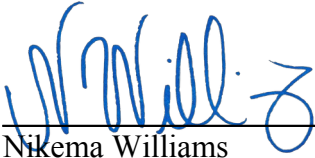
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



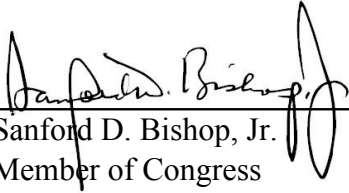
Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress