

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Lewis:

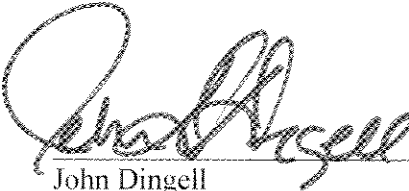
In the coming weeks, the 111th Congress will begin an important debate on a strategy to jumpstart our economy. This plan will likely include an economic stimulus package designed invest in America's infrastructure, promote energy efficiency, and create new green jobs. These are important investments in our communities that will put thousands of Americans back to work. However, as we begin to develop this stimulus plan, we urge you to give particular attention to those communities that have been hit especially hard by the economic downturn.

While the impacts of the current economy—the credit crunch, mortgage crisis, and high unemployment—are far-reaching, we should not ignore the fact that some communities have been impacted more than others. As we discuss the process and formula by which stimulus funds will be allocated, we urge you to consider ways to direct some of these investments to those communities that are suffering the most. Specifically, we encourage you to develop an allocation formula that takes into consideration factors that include unemployment, foreclosure rates, loss of tax base, and municipal revenue shortfalls.

There is no doubt that a bold stimulus plan is necessary to jumpstart our economy and lay the groundwork for a more competitive and energy-independent future. However, this plan must also recognize the unique challenges facing middle-class communities across our nation. The American people demand non-partisan, thoughtful, and pragmatic leadership, and they deserve a swift and effective response to the economic crisis. We look forward to working with you in the 111th Congress to make our communities stronger, our businesses more competitive, and working families more secure.

Sincerely,


Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress

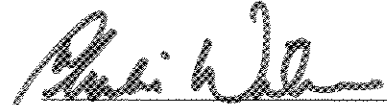

John Dingell
Member of Congress



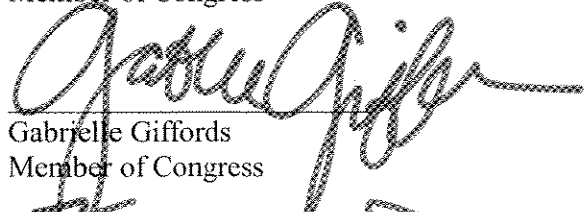
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



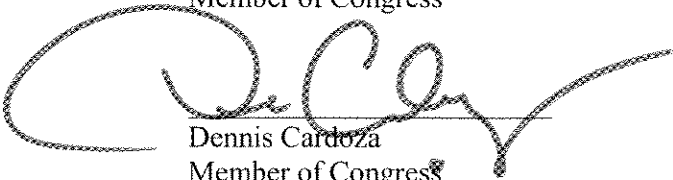
Baron Hill
Member of Congress



Charlie Wilson
Member of Congress



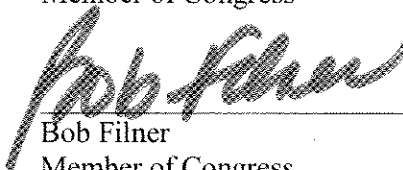
Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress



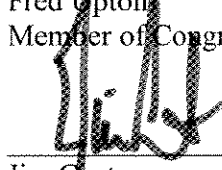
Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



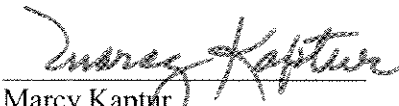
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



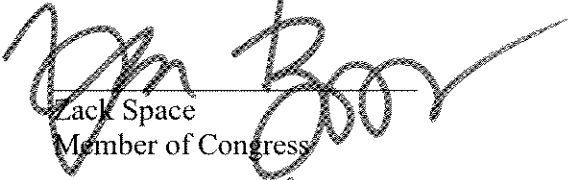
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



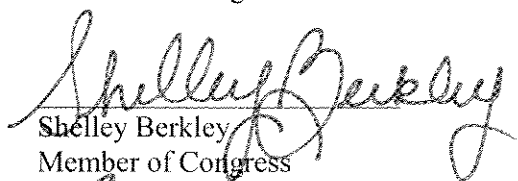
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



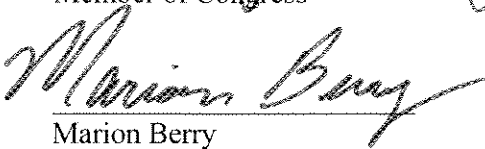
Zack Space
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



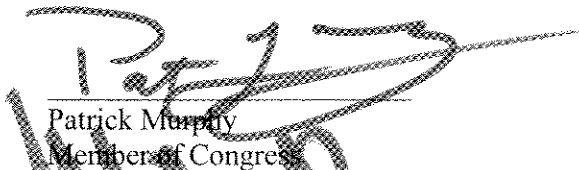
Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



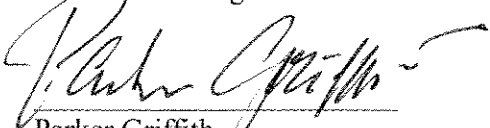
Marion Berry
Member of Congress



John Barrow
Member of Congress



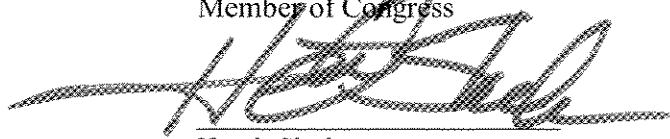
Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



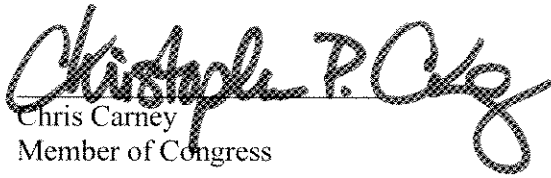
Parker Griffith
Member of Congress

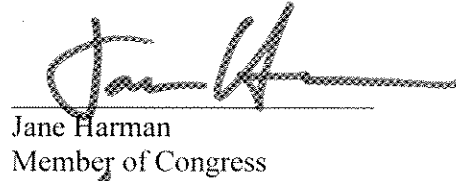


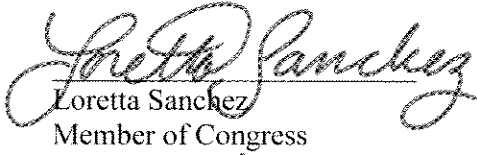
Mike Ross
Member of Congress

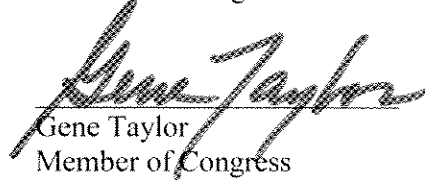


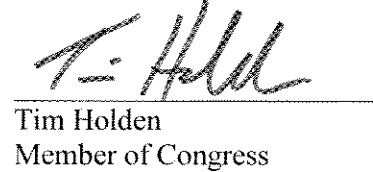
Heath Shuler
Member of Congress

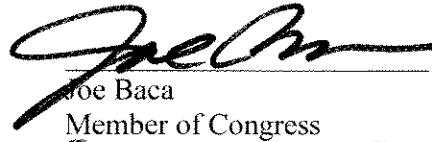

Chris Carney
Member of Congress

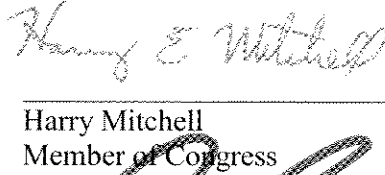

Jane Harman
Member of Congress

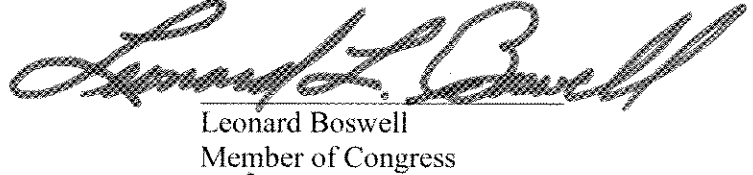

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

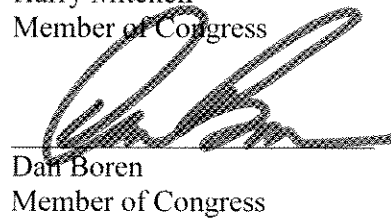

Gene Taylor
Member of Congress


Tim Holden
Member of Congress

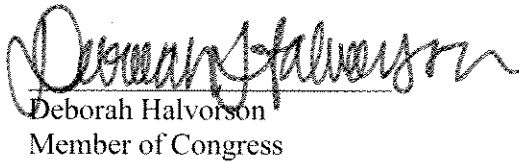

Joe Baca
Member of Congress

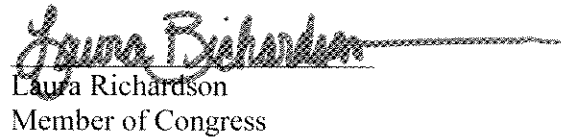

Harry Mitchell
Member of Congress

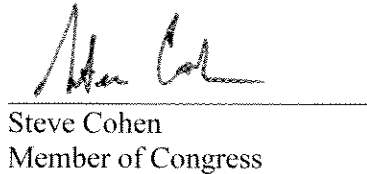

Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

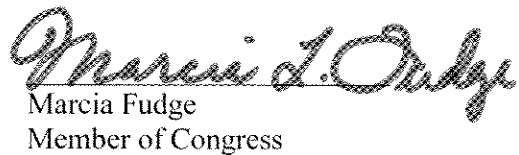

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

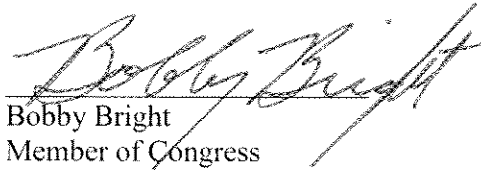

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

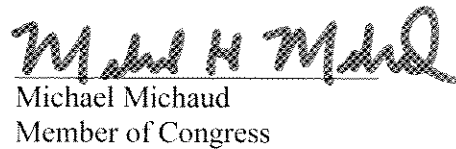

Deborah Halvorson
Member of Congress


Laura Richardson
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress


Bobby Bright
Member of Congress


Michael Michaud
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress