

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2005

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and
Commerce
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and
Commerce
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

As supporters of fundamental scientific research and education, we respectfully ask that you make the National Science Foundation (NSF) funding a priority and provide \$6.1 billion in your Fiscal Year 2006 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee appropriations legislation.

Innovation is the engine that drives our economy. Economists estimate that more than half the economic growth in the past 50 years can be attributed to technological innovation. As other nations are significantly increasing their funding of basic research, the U.S. leadership in science and technology is endangered and cannot be indefinitely taken for granted.

Clearly the government plays a role in innovation, as two-thirds of U.S. patents cite federal funding as their source of support. Federally funded basic research has cultivated groundbreaking technologies, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), global positioning systems (GPS), human genome mapping, lasers, fiber optics and many, many more. NSF research supports technologies that are later applied by other agencies, ranging from Doppler radar, which has saved many lives through accurate weather forecasts, to laser-guided weapons, which have revolutionized combat. Recently, NSF has pioneered the developing field of nanotechnology, with innumerable applications to the defense of our nation, improvements in healthcare, and quality of life. Though NSF receives only 4 percent of the total federal research and development budget, it is the bedrock of our scientific strength and provides the basis for innovation and development throughout our economy.

NSF has also been praised as a model of administrative efficiency for its low overhead costs and efficient use of tax dollars—over 95 percent of its funds go directly to support education and research programs.

NSF is a key supporter of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. In 2004, it supported more than 200,000 students, teachers and researchers—providing essential development for the current and future generations of scientists, engineers and technical workers. This year that number will drop to 168,000, as NSF budget reductions cut support for undergraduates and K-12 teachers and students. Now, more than ever, we must invest in our children's education to develop their talent, ensure their success, and maintain the quality of our workforce and economic strength. NSF, with its expertise in merit-review awards, is uniquely positioned to contribute to math and science education. NSF education endeavors are complementary to those of the Department of Education, as NSF research provides the

foundation for much of the applications promoted by the Department of Education. We should continue to strongly support the educational mission of the NSF.

In the FY 2005 Omnibus Spending Bill (P.L. 108-447), the NSF budget was cut by \$180 million, or \$272 million below the President's request of \$5.75 billion. We must act to restore this cut as well as provide an increase consistent with previous NSF budgets. In 2002, Congress recognized the importance of an investment in basic research by overwhelmingly passing the National Science Foundation Authorization Act (P.L. 107-368) which authorizes doubling the budget of NSF over five years. We realize that budget realities may not allow Congress to fully fund NSF at the FY 2006 authorized level of \$8.5 billion. However, we need to get back on track after the cuts of FY 2005. Therefore, we believe that an increase above the FY 2005 \$5.75 billion request is warranted.

We are mindful that you will be faced with very difficult choices this year. But we must recognize the unique role that NSF funding plays in increasing economic growth in our nation and providing a means to compete successfully against other countries. We respectfully request that you fund NSF at \$6.1 billion for FY 2006. We cannot afford to shortchange the fundamental sciences on which our future and our children's future depend.

Sincerely,



Vernon J. Ehlers
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Attachments

Neil Abercrombie
Gary Ackerman
Tom Allen
Tammy Baldwin
John Barrow
Roscoe Bartlett
Bob Beauprez
Xavier Becerra
Howard Berman
Judy Biggert
Tim Bishop
Earl Blumenauer
Sherry Boehlert
Leonard Boswell
Rick Boucher
Robert Brady
Sherrod Brown
Corrine Brown
Michael Burgess
G.K. Butterfield
Ken Calvert
Louis Capps
Michael Capuano
Ben Cardin
Dennis Cardoza
Russ Carnahan
Ed Case
Ben Chandler
Wm. Lacy Clay
Emmanuel Cleaver
Jim Cooper
Jim Costa
Jerry Costello
Elijah Cummings
Danny Davis
Susan Davis
Lincoln Davis
Tom Davis
Peter DeFazio
Diana DeGette
William Delahunt
Rosa DeLauro
John Dingell
Lloyd Doggett
Mike Doyle
John Duncan

Vern Ehlers
Eliot Engel
Phil English
Anna Eshoo
Bob Etheridge
Lane Evans
Mike Ferguson
Bob Filner
Harold Ford
Barney Frank
Jim Gerlach
Wayne Gilchrist
Charles Gonzalez
Bart Gordon
Gene Green
Al Green
Mark Green
Raul Grijalva
Luis Gutierrez
Gil Gutknecht
Ralph Hall
Jane Harman
J.D. Hayworth
Maurice Hinchey
Rush Holt
Mike Honda
Darlene Hooley
Bob Inglis
Jay Inslee
Steve Israel
Sheila Jackson Lee
William Jefferson
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Tim Johnson
Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Dale Kildee
Ron Kind
James Langevin
Tom Lantos
Rick Larsen
Jim Leach
Barbara Lee
Sander Levin
John Lewis
Dan Lipinski
Zoe Lofgren

Stephen Lynch
Carolyn Maloney
Edward Markey
Jim Marshall
Jim Matheson
Doris Matsui
Carolyn McCarthy
Betty McCollum
Thaddeus McCotter
Jim McDermott
James McGovern
Mike McIntyre
Michael McNulty
Martin Meehan
Kendrick Meek
Gregory Meeks
Robert Menendez
Michael Michaud
Juanita Millender-McDonald
Brad Miller
George Miller
Dennis Moore
Gwen Moore
Jim Moran
Jerrold Nadler
Grace Napolitano
Richard Neal
James Oberstar
Major R. Owens
Frank Pallone
Bill Pascrell
Donald Payne
Todd Platts
David Price
Nick Rahall
Charles Rangel
Silvestre Reyes
Mike Rogers
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Bobby Rush
Tim Ryan
Linda Sanchez
Bernard Sanders
Jim Saxton
Janice Schakowsky

Adam Schiff
Allyson Schwartz
Joe Schwarz
Rob Simmons
Louise Slaughter
Adam Smith
Chris Smith
Lamar Smith
Vic Snyder
Hilda Solis
Ted Strickland
Bart Stupak
John Sweeney
Ellen Tauscher
Mike Thompson
John Tierney
Edolphus Towns
Mark Udall
Tom Udall
Fred Upton
Chris Van Hollen
Diane Watson
Mel Watt
Henry Waxman
Anthony Weiner
Curt Weldon
Heather Wilson
Lynn Woolsey
David Wu



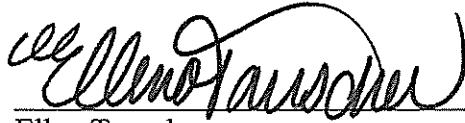
Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress



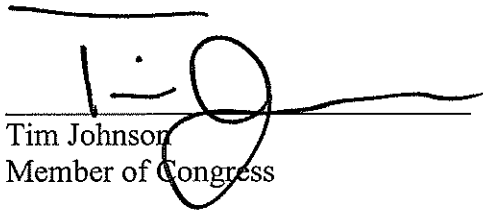
Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



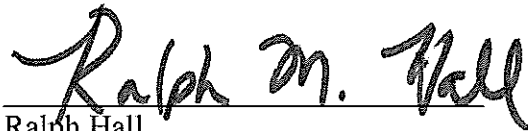
Tim Johnson
Member of Congress



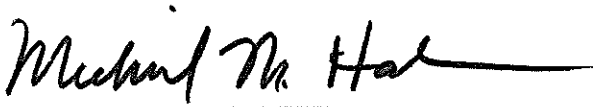
Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers (MI)
Member of Congress



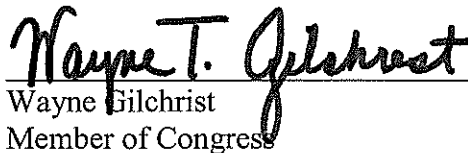
Ralph Hall
Member of Congress



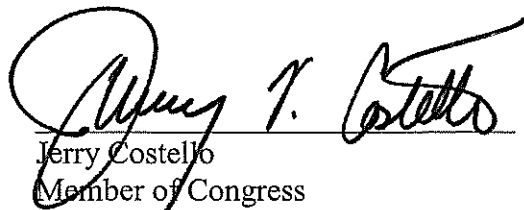
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



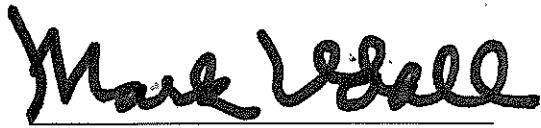
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



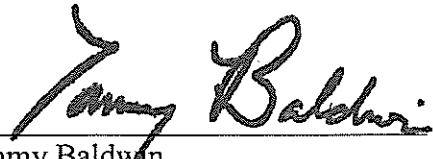
Wayne Gilchrist
Member of Congress



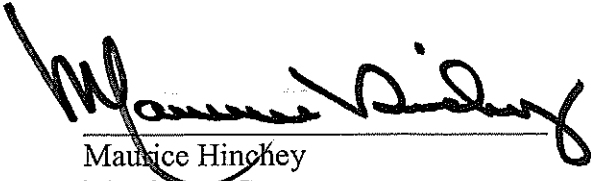
Jerry Costello
Member of Congress



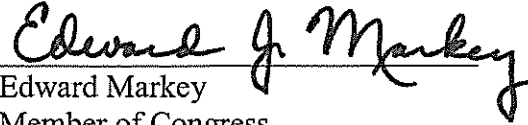
Mark Udall
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



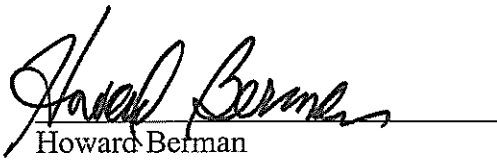
Edward Markey
Member of Congress




Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



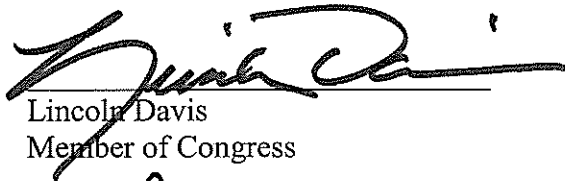
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



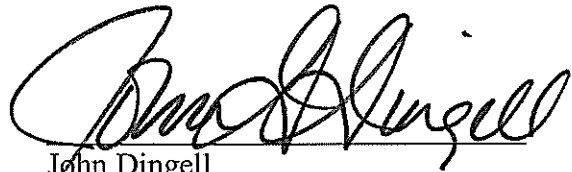
Howard Berman
Member of Congress



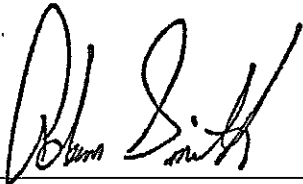
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress



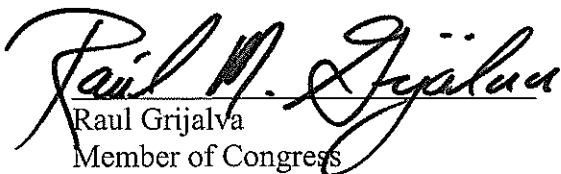
John Dingell
Member of Congress



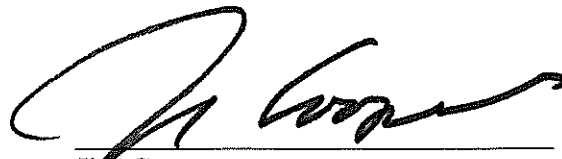
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



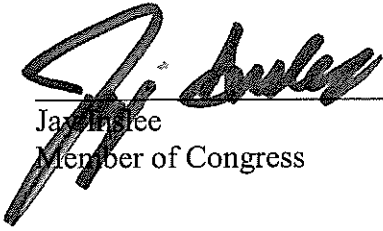
Curt Weldon
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



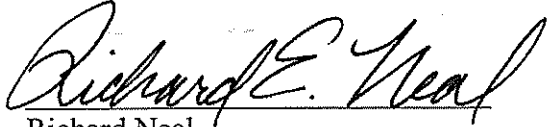
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Jay Bybee
Member of Congress



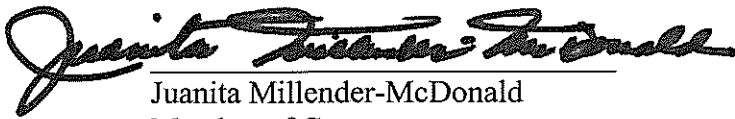
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress



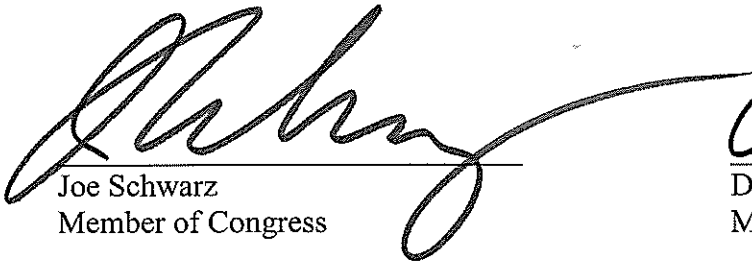
Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress



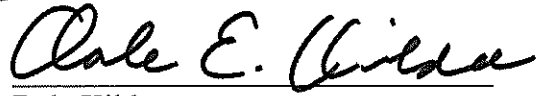
Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Joe Schwarz
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Jerold Nadler
Member of Congress



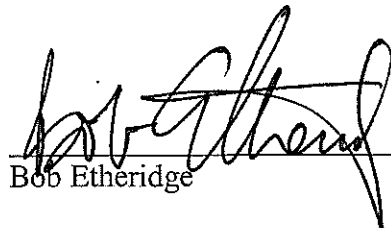
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



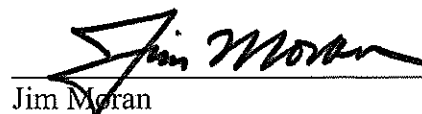
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



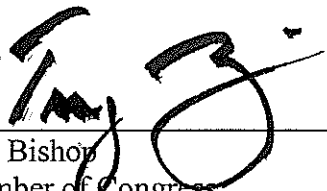
Michael Capuano
Member of Congress




Bob Etheridge





Jim Moran



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

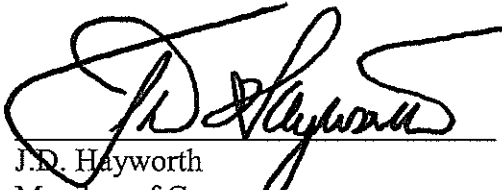

Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress

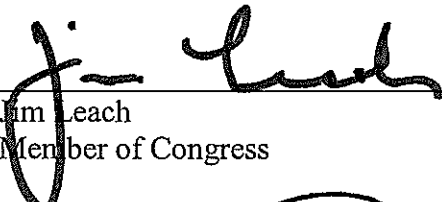

Thad McCotter
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

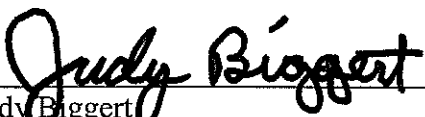

J.D. Hayworth
Member of Congress



Hilda Solis
Member of Congress

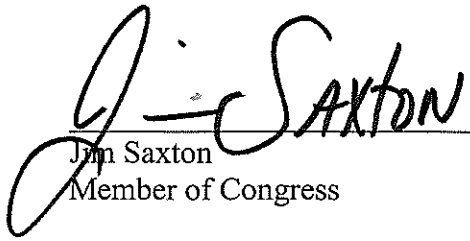

Jim Leach
Member of Congress

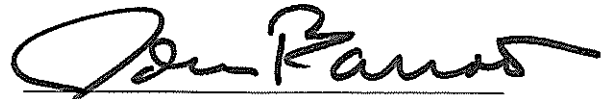

Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress


Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

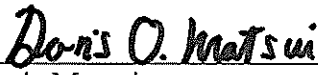

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress


Jim Saxton
Member of Congress



John Barrow
Member of Congress



Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

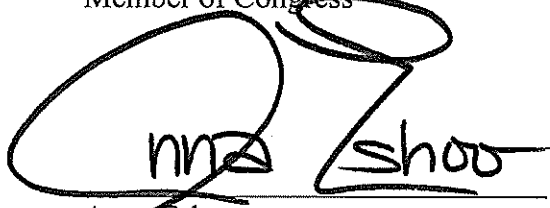

Al Green
Member of Congress

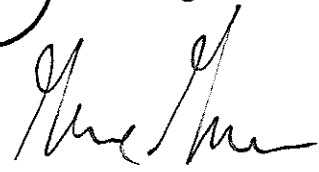

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

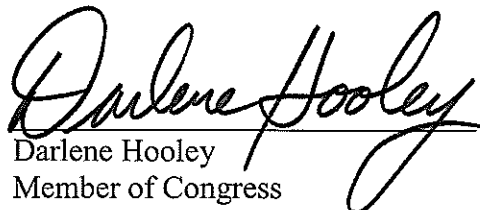

Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress


Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



Jim Marshall
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

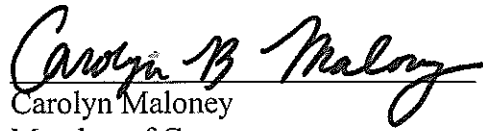

Gene Green
Member of Congress


Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress

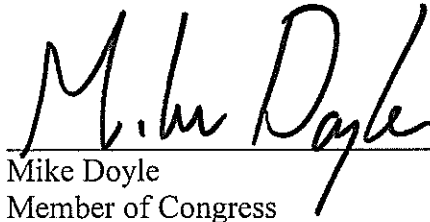

Ed Case
Member of Congress


Donald Payne
Member of Congress

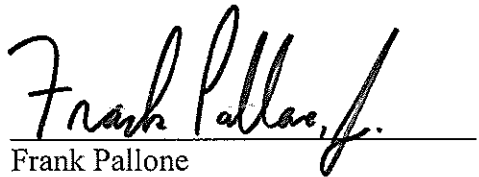

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



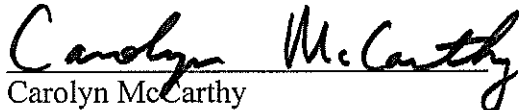
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



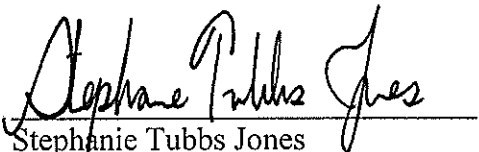
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Jane Harman
Member of Congress



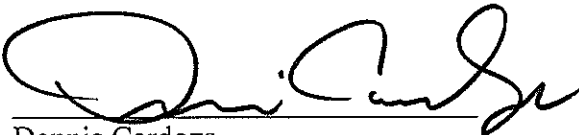
Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



Tom Allen
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



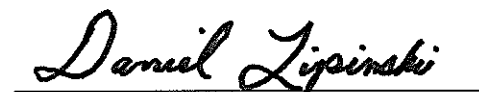
Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



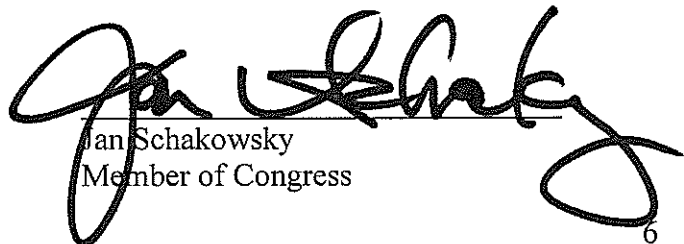
Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



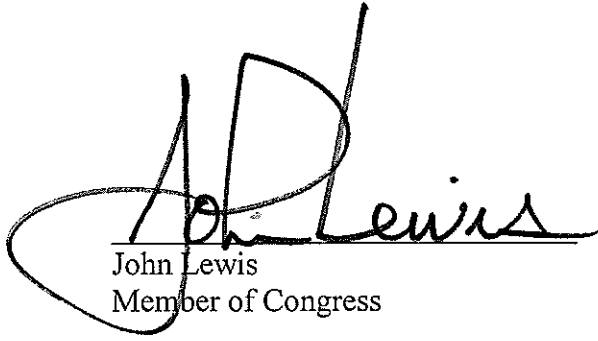
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



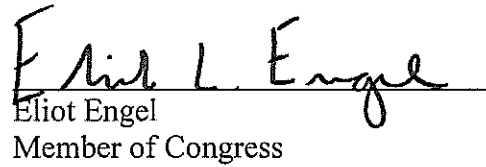
Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



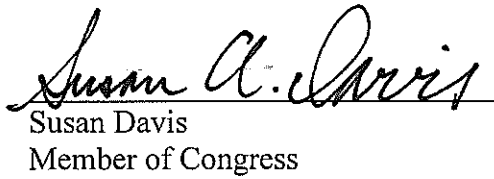
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



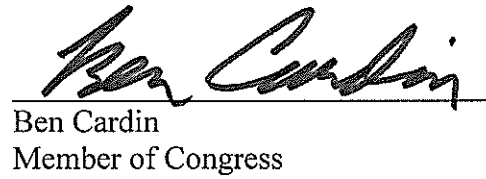
John Lewis
Member of Congress



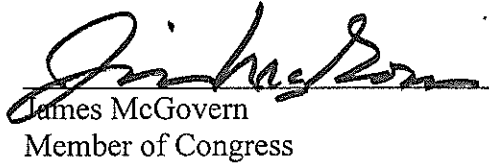
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



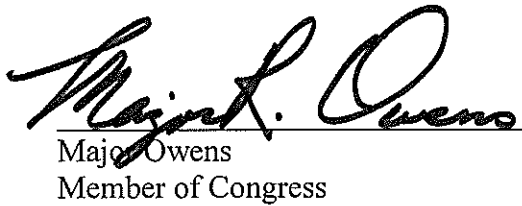
Ben Cardin
Member of Congress



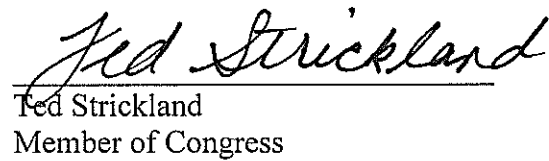
James McGovern
Member of Congress



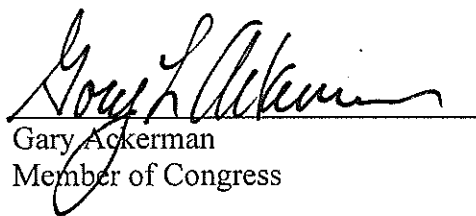
Fred Upton
Member of Congress



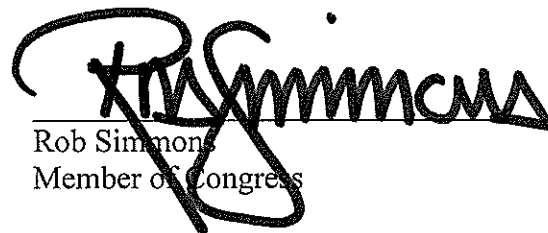
Major Owens
Member of Congress



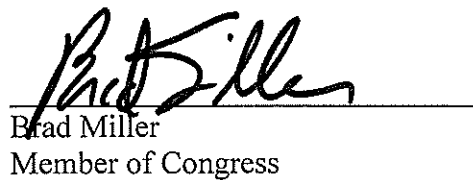
Ted Strickland
Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



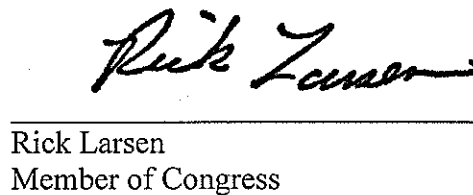
Rob Simmons
Member of Congress



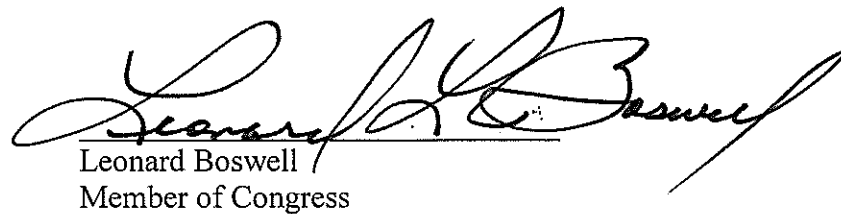
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



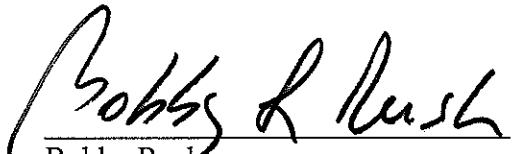
Robert Menendez
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



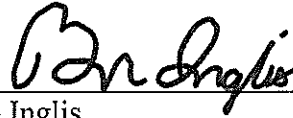
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



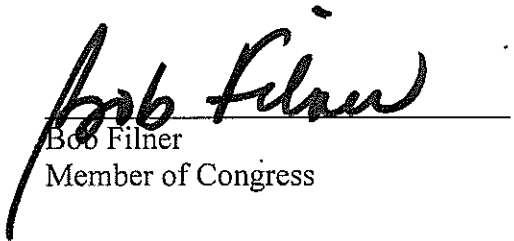
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Mark Green
Member of Congress



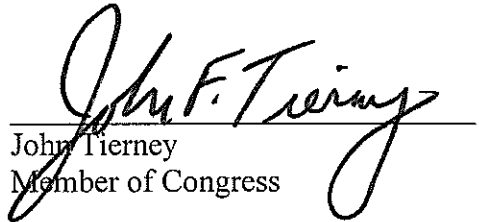
Bob Inglis
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress




Harold Ford
Member of Congress



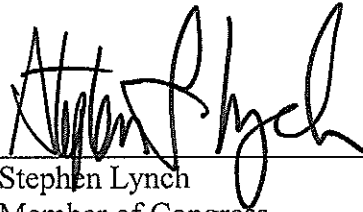
John Tierney
Member of Congress



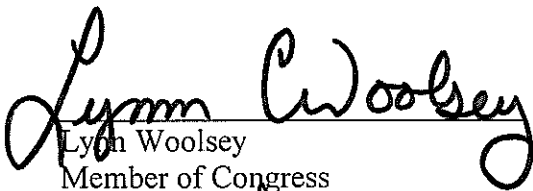
Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress



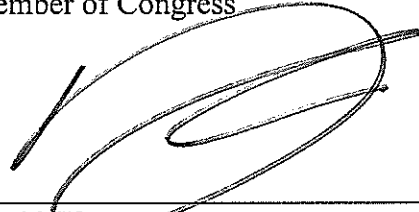
Danny Davis
Member of Congress



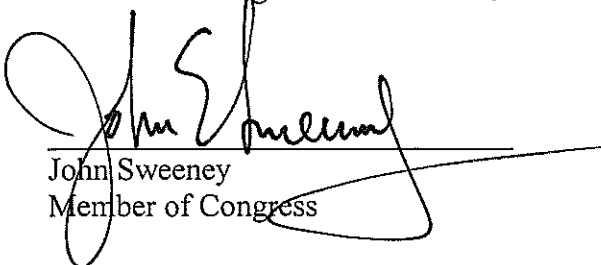
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



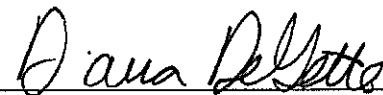
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



John Sweeney
Member of Congress



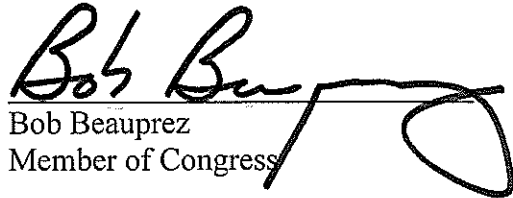
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



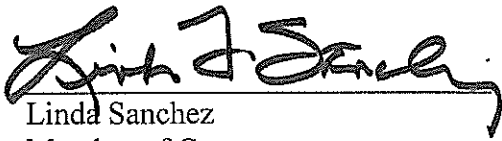
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



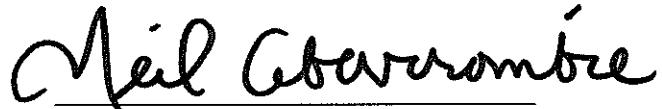
Bob Beauprez
Member of Congress



Todd Platts
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



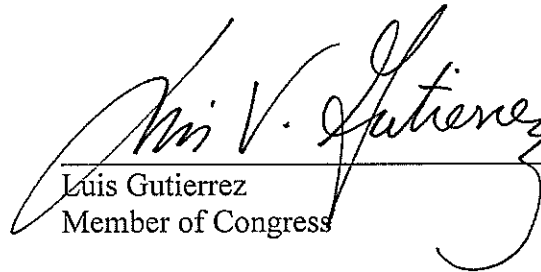
Phil English
Member of Congress



Illeana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



William Delahunt
Member of Congress



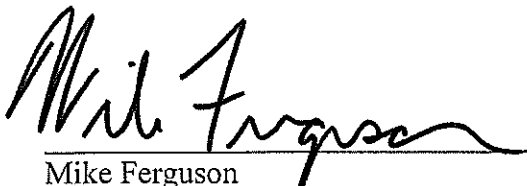
Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



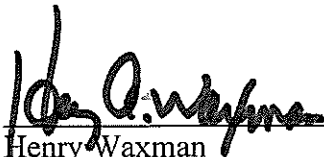
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



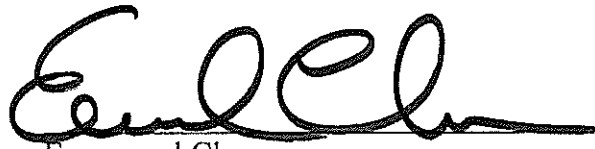
Mike Ferguson
Member of Congress



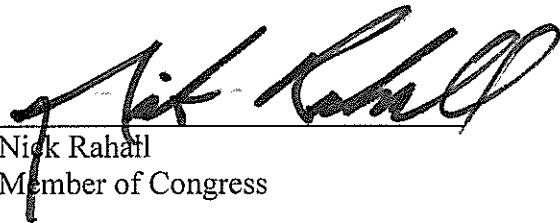
Chris Smith
Member of Congress



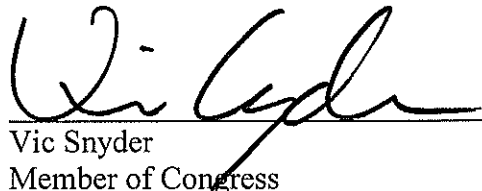
Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



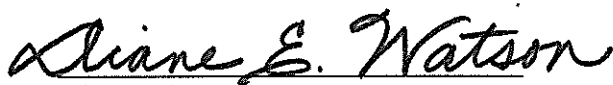
Emmanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



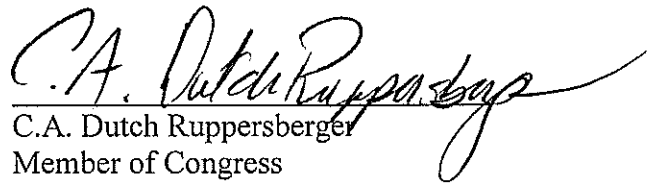
Nick Rahall
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



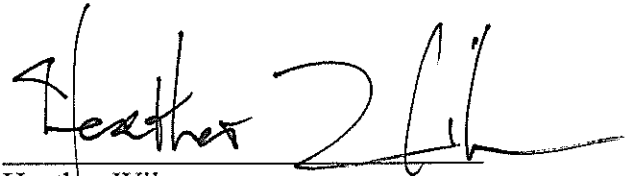
Diane Watson
Member of Congress



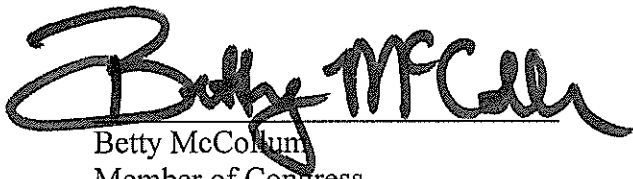
C.A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Heather Wilson
Member of Congress



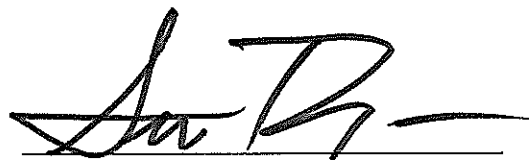
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



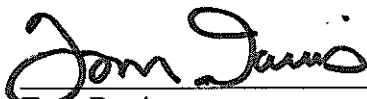
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



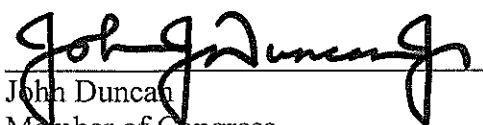
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



Tom Davis
Member of Congress



John Duncan
Member of Congress

Ben Chandler

Ben Chandler
Member of Congress

Barney Frank

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Bob A. Brady

Robert Brady
Member of Congress

William Jefferson

William Jefferson
Member of Congress

Rick Boucher

Rick Boucher
Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Allyson J. Schwartz

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



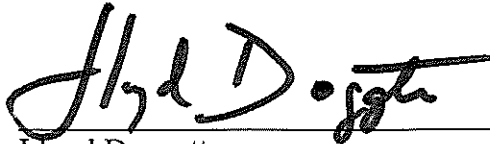
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



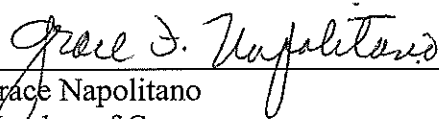
Lane Evans
Member of Congress



James Langevin
Member of Congress



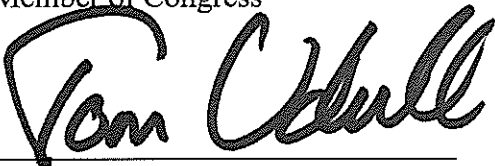
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



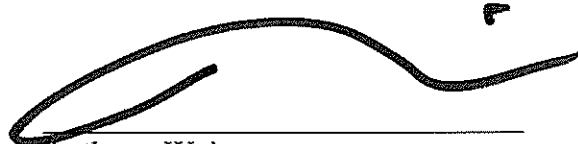
Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



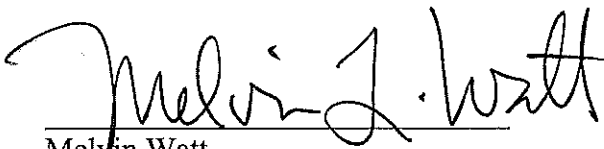
Bart Stupak
Member of Congress



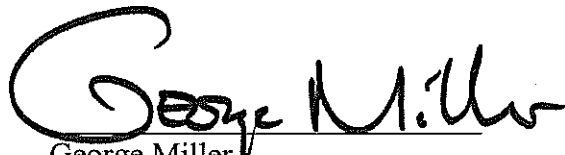
Tom Udall
Member of Congress



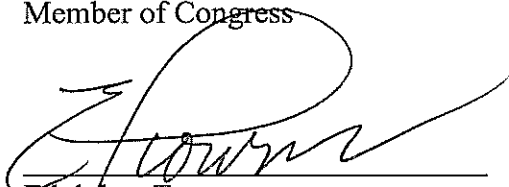
Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



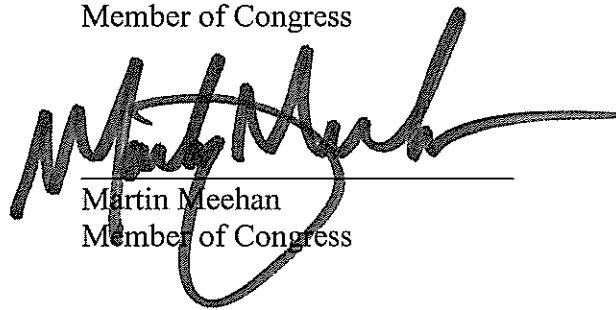
Melvin Watt
Member of Congress



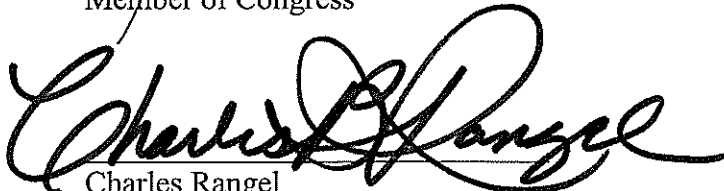
George Miller
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Martin Meehan
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress