Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

The statutory deadline for the full implementation of positive train control (PTC) safety technology is rapidly approaching, and it is clear that our nation's passenger and freight railroads are unable to meet the deadline. To avert a major disruption of passenger and freight rail service that will have far reaching consequences for American commuters, businesses, and our economy, Congress must act now to extend the upcoming PTC deadline with a clear timeline that keeps railroads accountable and allows for the responsible implementation of this critical safety technology.

Implementing positive train control is vitally important to ensuring that our national rail system provides the utmost level of safety for the millions of passengers around the country that depend on rail to travel and get to work every day and the thousands of American businesses that rely on rail to move their goods. However, when this technology was mandated in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, the arbitrary deadline set by Congress for implementation did not reflect the high costs and technological challenges of developing and deploying the new technology on approximately 60,000 miles of track around the country.

Despite numerous challenges, railroads have made great strides towards implementation. To date, the freight industry has invested more than $5 billion with another $4 billion set to be spent to complete installation. Our already cash strapped public commuter railroads have spent over $950 million on PTC and conservative estimates are that $3.48 billion more is needed to get the job done. Despite that need, Congress has only appropriated $50 million for this priority safety mandate, and half of the country's commuter railroads are being forced to defer other safety and capital improvements in order to afford the costs of PTC.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirms what commuter railroads, the freight industry, and numerous government agencies have warned for years: the upcoming statutory deadline is unrealistic, and despite the best efforts of freight and passenger rail, implementing PTC nationwide by the end of this year is simply impossible.

Unless Congress acts soon to extend the deadline, passenger and freight railroads will have to shut down operations around the country. Without congressional action, the hundreds of thousands of passengers who rely on commuter rail to get to work every day will have to find alternate means of travel, crowding already congested roads, increasing costs to local communities, and disproportionately affecting low income Americans. Shutting down the

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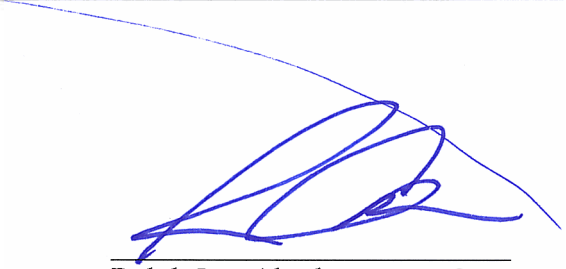
country's freight network would also have devastating consequences to our nation's economy, affecting thousands of businesses across a wide spectrum of industries and producing shortages of essential goods. The shutdown could make it difficult for cities to purify drinking water without the availability of chlorine and for farmers to tend to their crops without access to fertilizer.

Given the widespread impact to our economy, we believe this matter requires immediate attention. Due to complex logistics, Americans could begin to see the effects of the disruption weeks prior to the deadline with railroads, shippers, and agricultural suppliers stopping operations and closing facilities in early December or sooner. Congress cannot afford to wait until the last minute to act and should explore all legislative options to get the job done as soon as possible. Only Congress has the authority to extend the deadline and avert a major disruption of passenger and freight rail service. We must act now to extend the upcoming PTC deadline while holding passenger and freight railroads accountable and providing them with a clear plan for implementing this vital safety technology.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

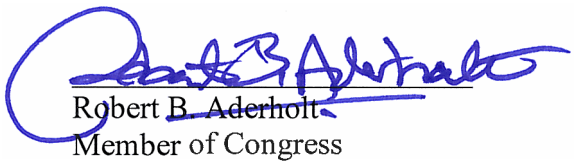
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



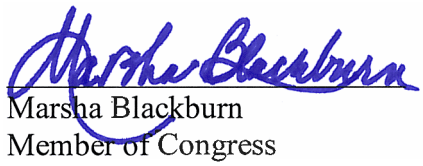
Ralph Lee Abraham
Member of Congress



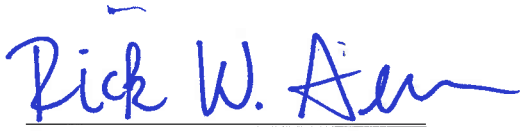
Diane Black
Member of Congress



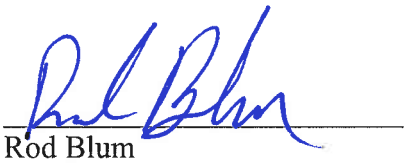
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
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Rick W. Allen
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Member of Congress



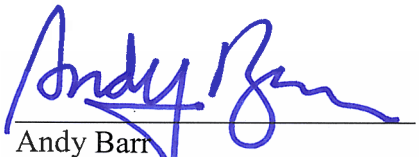
Earl Blumenauer
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Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



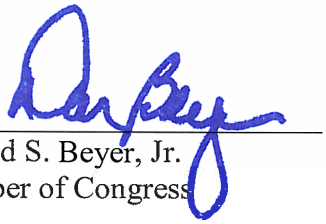
Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
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Andy Barr
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Dave Brat
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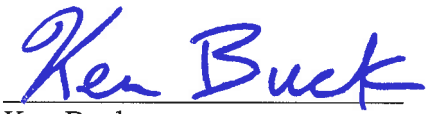
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



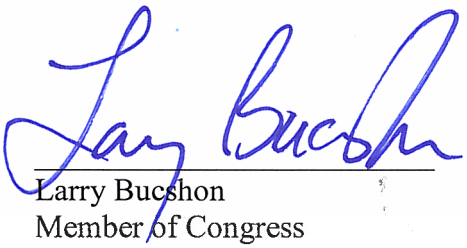
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



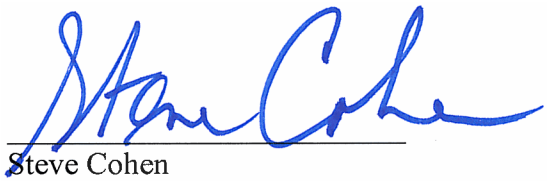
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



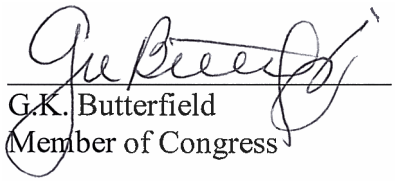
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon
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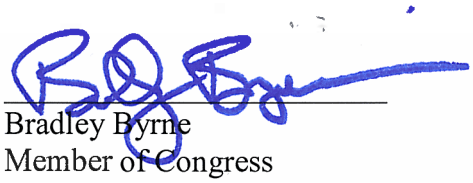
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



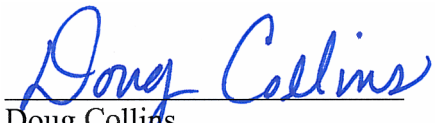
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



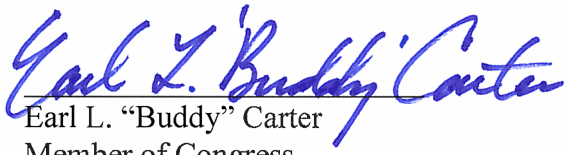
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



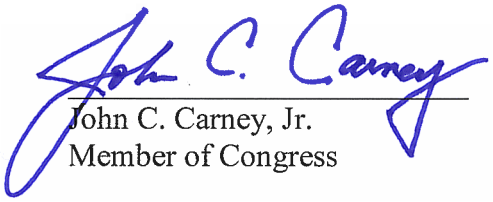
Doug Collins
Member of Congress



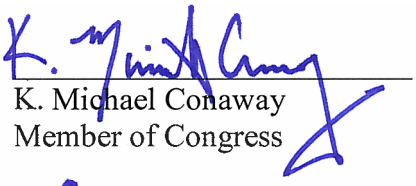
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



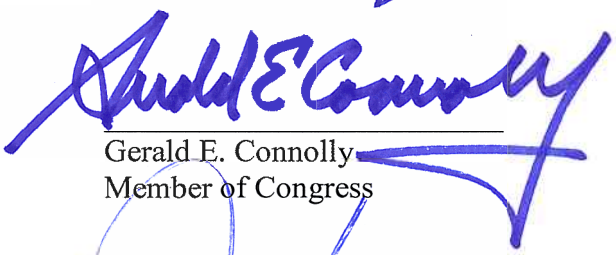
John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



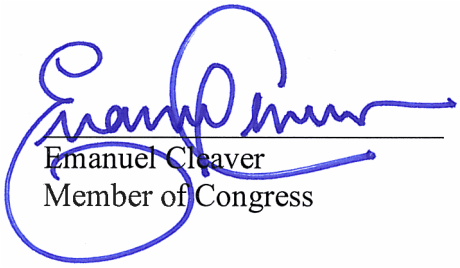
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



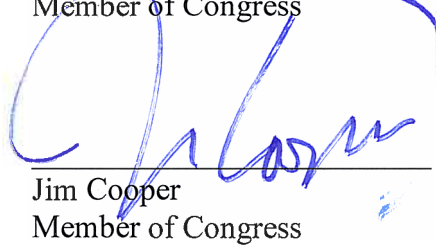
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



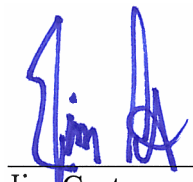
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



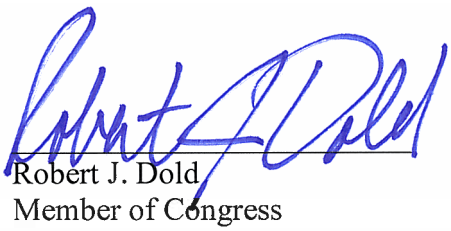
Emanuel Cleaver
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Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



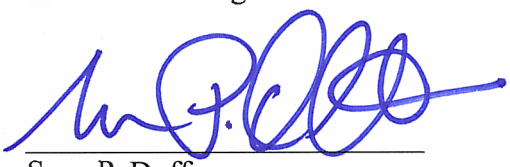
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold
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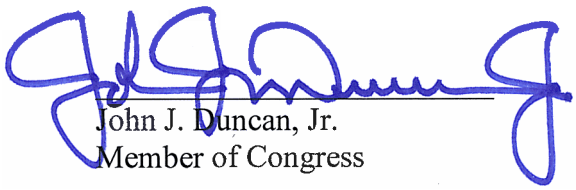
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



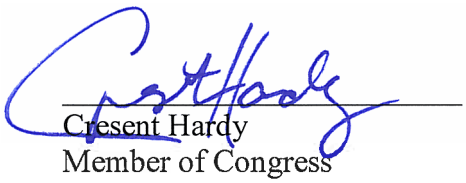
Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



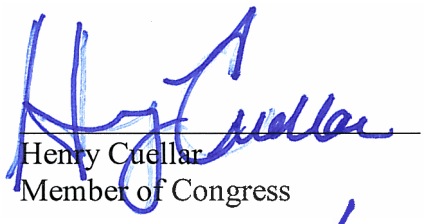
John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cresent Hardy
Member of Congress



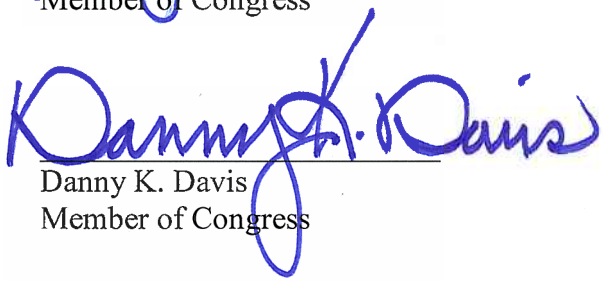
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



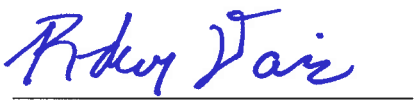
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



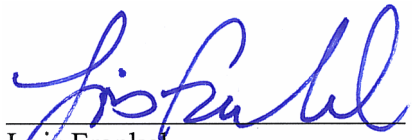
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



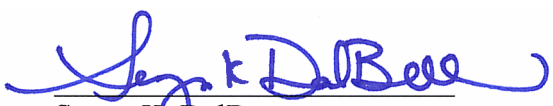
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



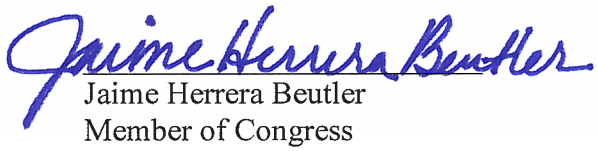
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



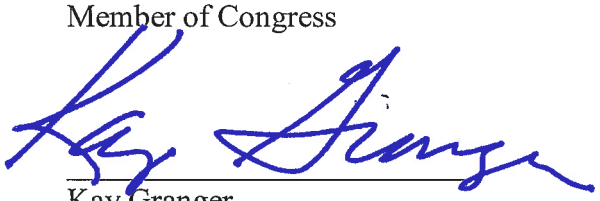
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



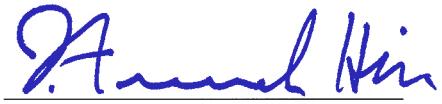
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



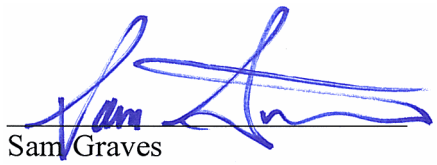
Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



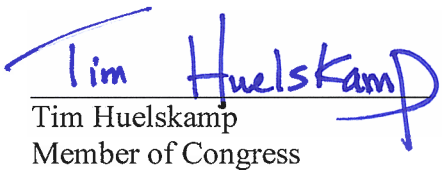
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



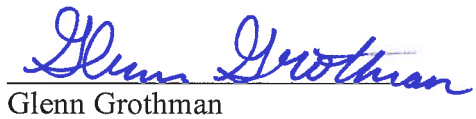
J. French Hill
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



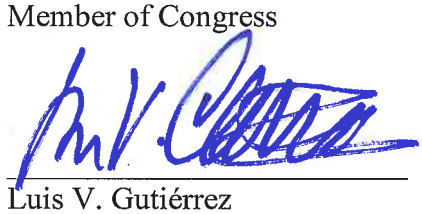
Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



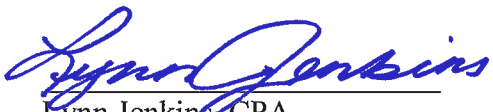
Glenn Grothman
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Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



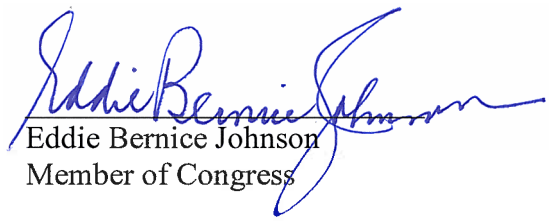
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



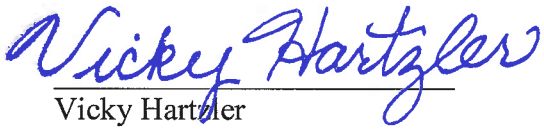
Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress



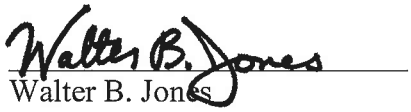
Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



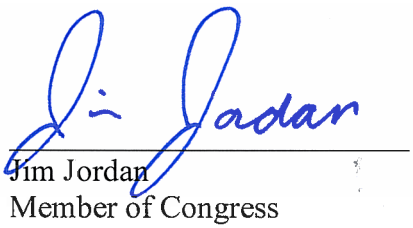
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



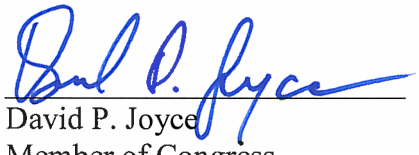
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Raúl R. Labrador
Member of Congress



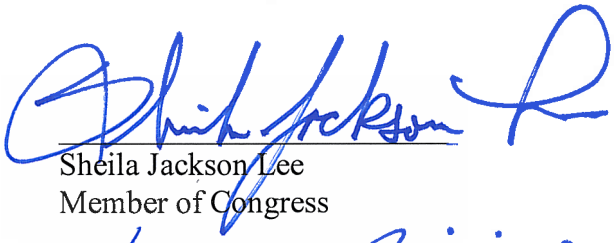
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



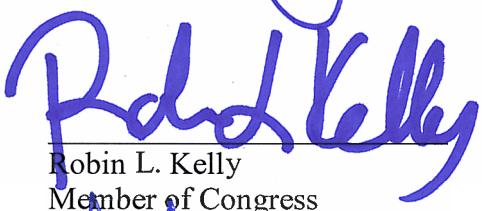
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



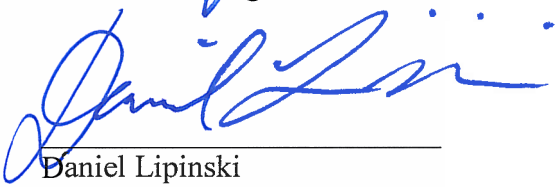
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



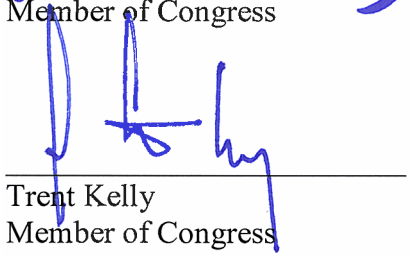
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



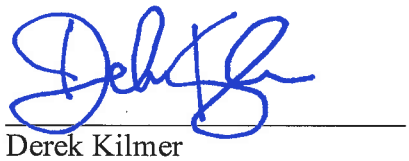
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



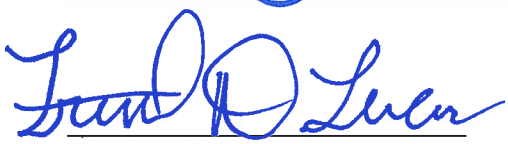
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



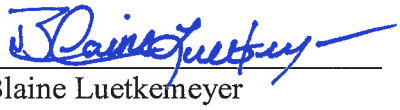
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



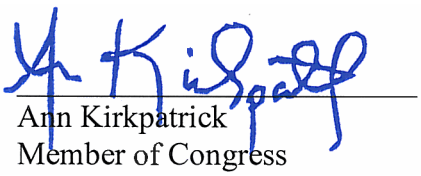
Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



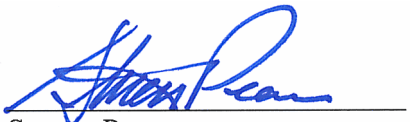
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



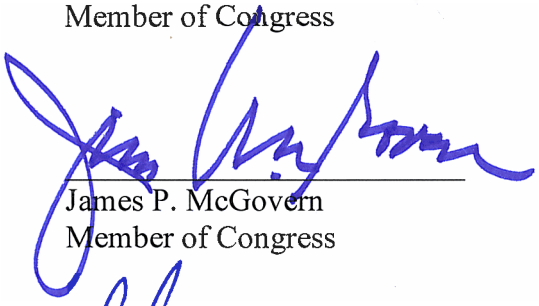
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



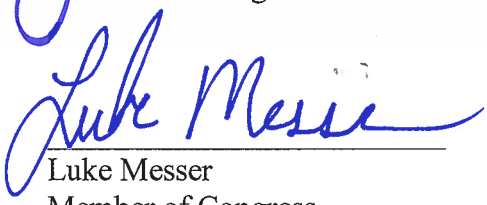
Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



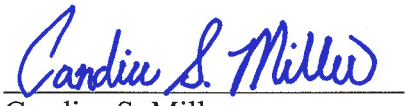
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



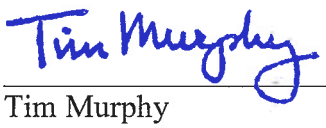
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



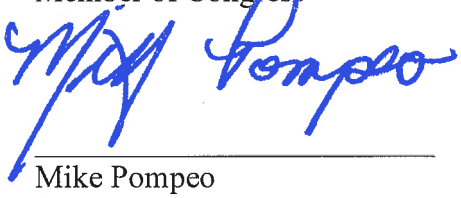
Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



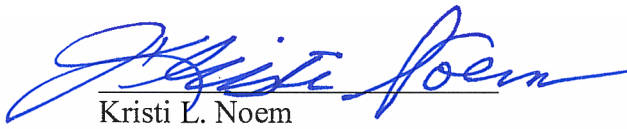
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



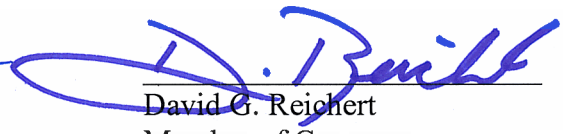
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



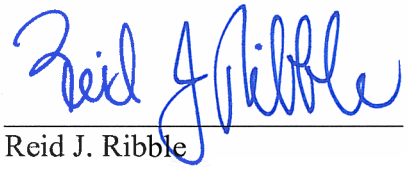
Kristi L. Noem
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert
Member of Congress



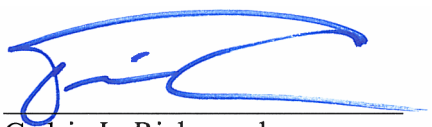
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



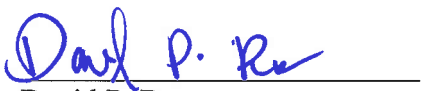
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



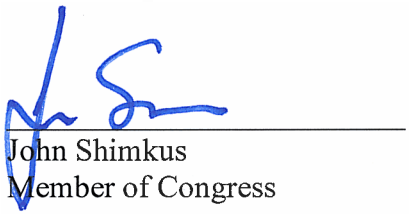
E. Scott Rigell
Member of Congress



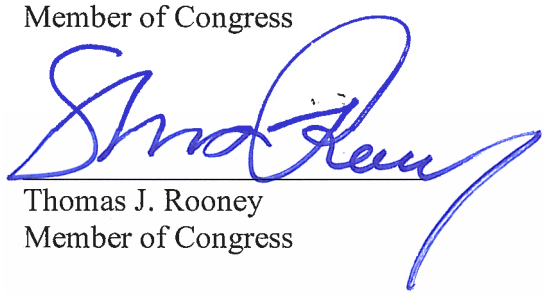
David Scott
Member of Congress



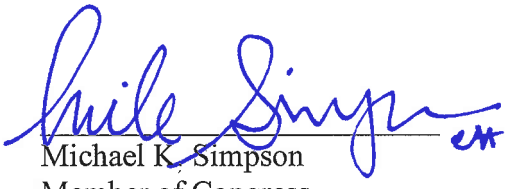
David P. Roe
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



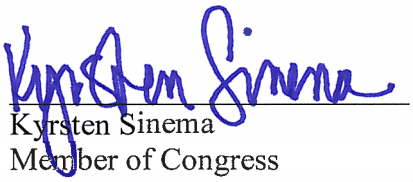
Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



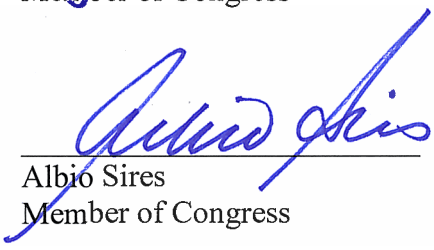
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



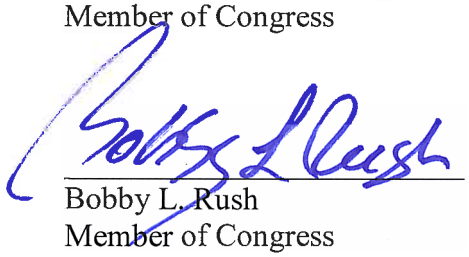
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



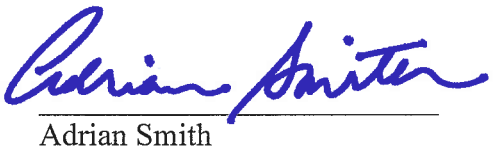
C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



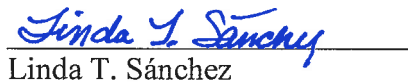
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



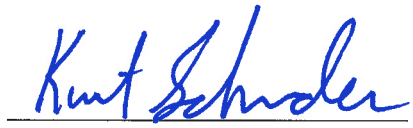
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



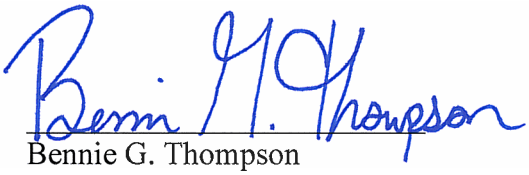
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



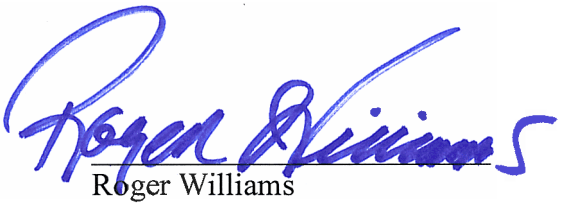
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



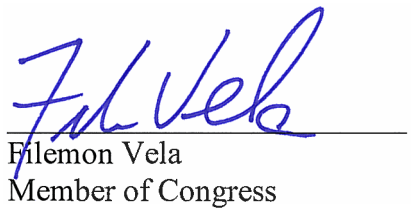
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



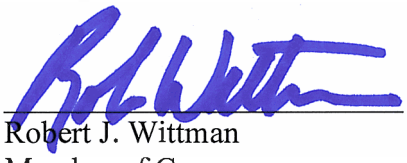
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



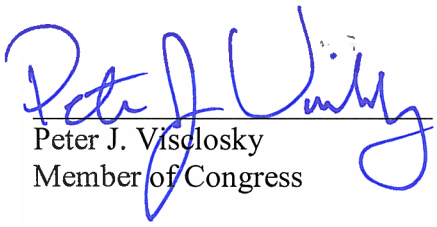
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



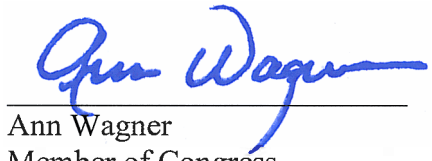
Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



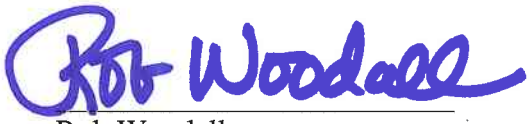
Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



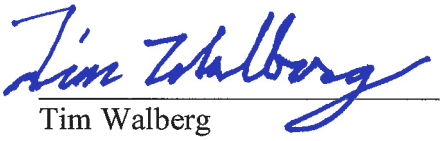
Steve Womack
Member of Congress



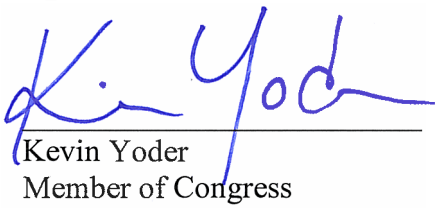
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



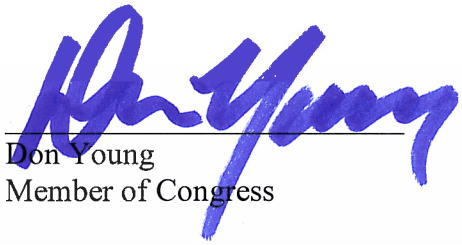
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



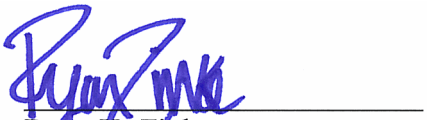
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



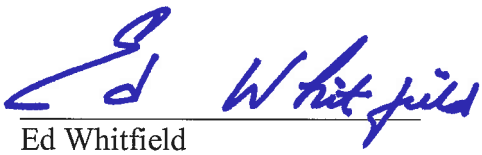
Don Young
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



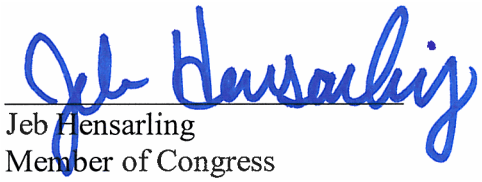
Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



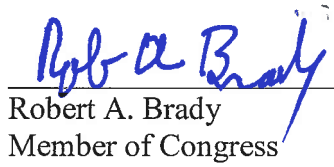
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



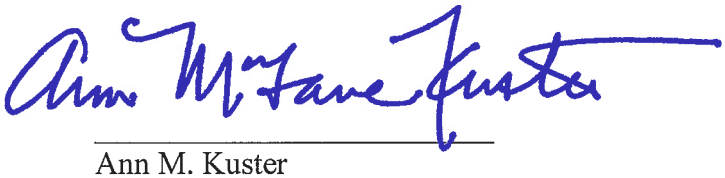
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



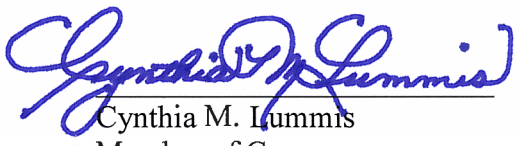
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



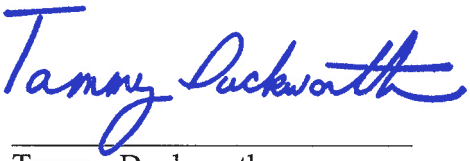
Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



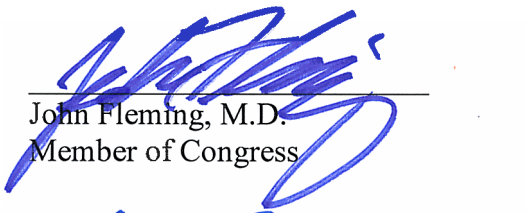
Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



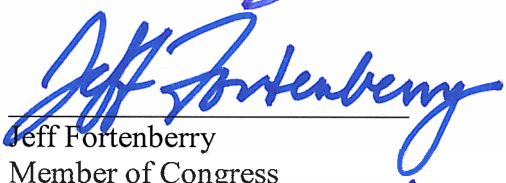
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



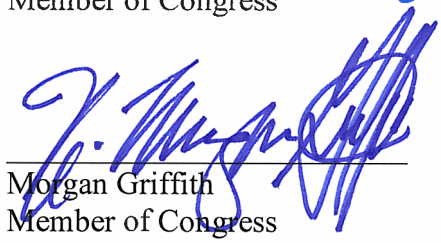
Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



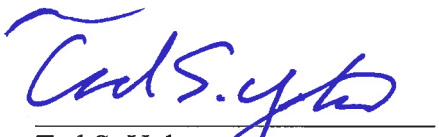
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



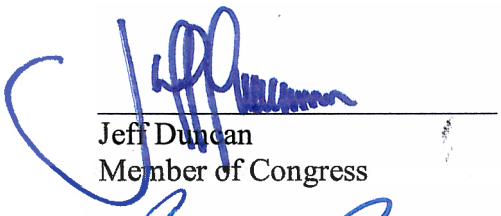
Fred Upton
Member of Congress



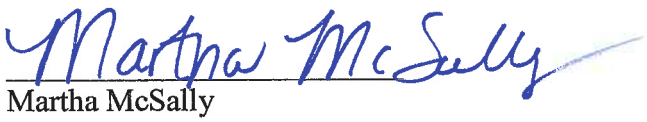
Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



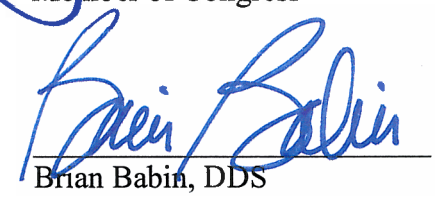
Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress



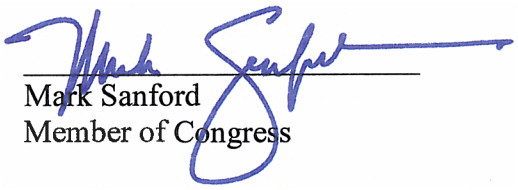
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



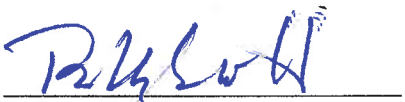
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, DDS
Member of Congress



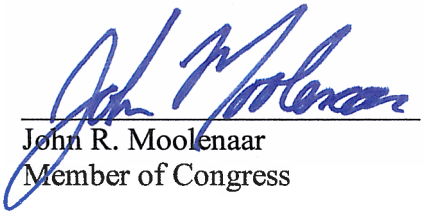
Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



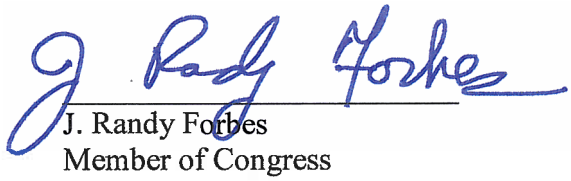
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



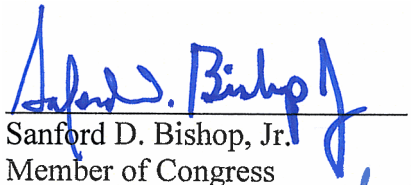
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



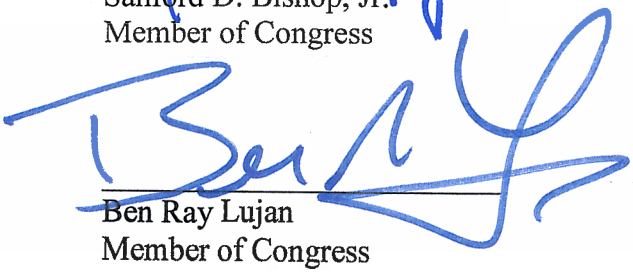
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress

Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress