

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our strong support for the immediate enactment of a five year reauthorization of the 2009 Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) reforms.

The Trade Expansion Act of 1962 created the Trade Adjustment Assistance program to assist workers laid off as a result of international trade by helping them retrain and acquire skills needed to compete in the global environment. In 2009, Congress enacted the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, making significant improvements to the TAA for Workers program as well as the other TAA programs – Firms, Farmers, and Communities.

The 2009 reforms had the full support of the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee. Underscoring the bipartisanship, bicameral support for the 2009 reforms, Congressman Camp, who was then the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means stated, “[t]his important package provides a coherent, rational, accountable, and cost-effective system for training trade-affected workers and putting them back to work quickly and at better jobs”. Similarly, Senator Grassley, the Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee stated, “today’s achievement...is the culmination of years of effort, and I am confident that the result will serve to benefit American workers in Iowa and across the United States for years to come”.

The 2009 TAA reforms dramatically improved the TAA for Workers program. Specifically, the legislation made service sector workers eligible for the program, expanded access for manufacturing workers, significantly increased training funding and promoted on-the-job, part-time and longer-term training. Critically, it also increased the TAA for Workers Health Coverage Tax Credit subsidy to 80 percent and made several important changes to the existing credit. These changes were designed to minimize gaps in coverage and assure access to insurance policies that meet the health and medical needs of eligible individuals and their families. The 2009 legislation also made important reforms to the TAA for Firms program and tripled its authorization, improved the TAA for Farmers program, and created the TAA for Communities program.

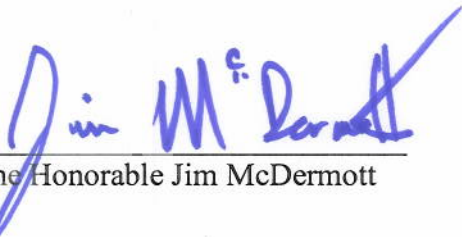
Since the reforms were implemented in May 2009, more than 185,000 additional trade-impacted workers who may not have been certified under the “old” 2002 TAA for Workers program have become eligible for training opportunities and benefits. In total, more than 435,000 workers

were certified as eligible for TAA support in that timeframe. In FY2010 alone, more than 227,000 workers took advantage of TAA and participated in the program, receiving case management, training and/or income support.

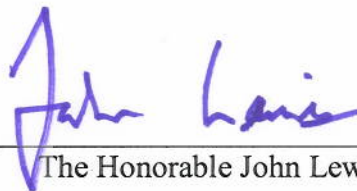
The 2009 TAA reforms expired on February 12, 2011, and just last week, the Department of Labor denied the first three petitions filed by groups of workers seeking TAA assistance under pre-2009 TAA rules. The reason for the denial: they were service workers, and now that the 2009 reforms have lapsed, service workers are not eligible for TAA. Inevitably, the inability of these laid off workers to obtain TAA support and training, as well as the more limited benefits available to those workers whose TAA petitions are approved, will impede their efforts to obtain new jobs in growth sectors like health, information technology and precision manufacturing and contribute to the economic recovery.

The denial of these service workers' petitions for TAA assistance demonstrates the real consequences for working families associated with the failure to reauthorize TAA. The 2009 program should never have been allowed to lapse, and it is imperative that it is re-started immediately before additional workers are harmed. We therefore support the immediate passage of a five-year reauthorization of the 2009 TAA reforms and look forward to working with the Administration to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Jim McDermott



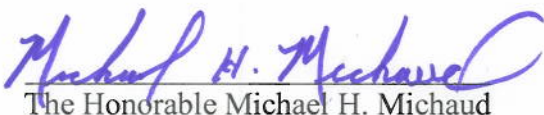
The Honorable John Lewis



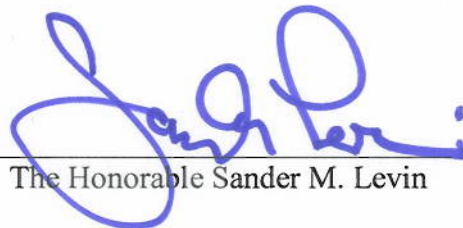
The Honorable Xavier Becerra



The Honorable Adam Smith



The Honorable Michael H. Michaud



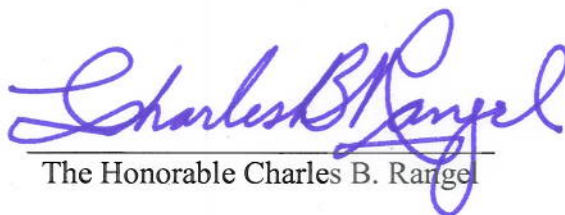
The Honorable Sander M. Levin



The Honorable John D. Dingell



The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.



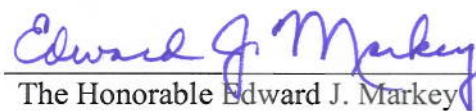
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel



The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark



The Honorable George Miller



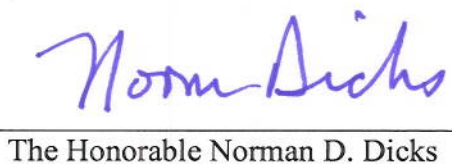
The Honorable Edward J. Markey



The Honorable Henry A. Waxman




The Honorable Dale E. Kildee



The Honorable Norman D. Dicks



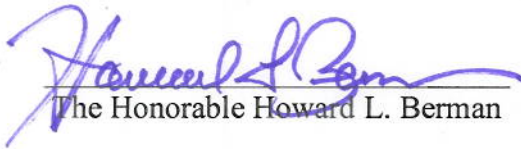
The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II



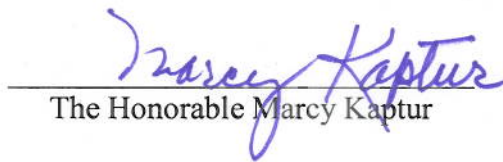
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer



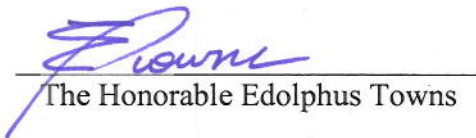
The Honorable Barney Frank



The Honorable Howard L. Berman



The Honorable Marcy Kaptur



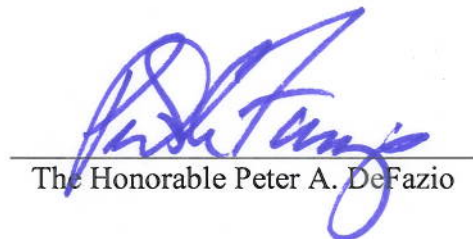
The Honorable Edolphus Towns



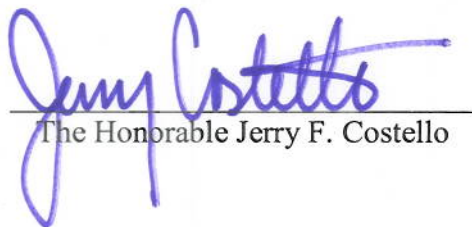
The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman



The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky



The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio



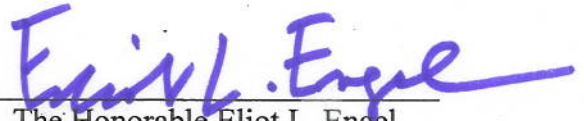
The Honorable Jerry F. Costello



The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.



The Honorable Richard E. Neal



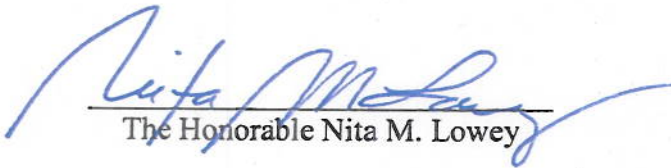
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel



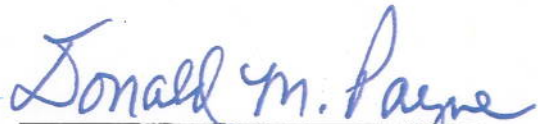
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The Honorable Robert E. Andrews



The Honorable Nita M. Lowey



The Honorable Donald M. Payne



The Honorable James P. Moran



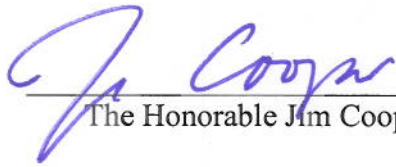
The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro



The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton



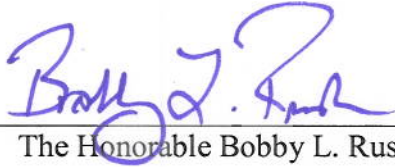
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler



The Honorable Jim Cooper



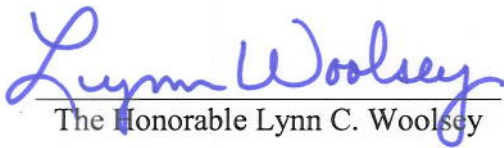
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The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard



The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey



The Honorable Gene Green



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The Honorable Bob Filner




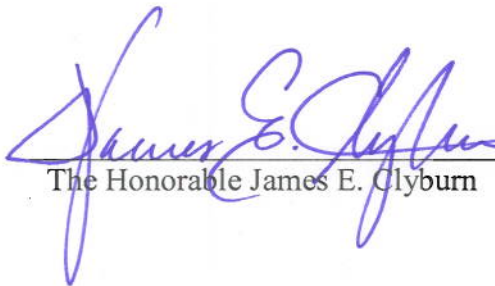
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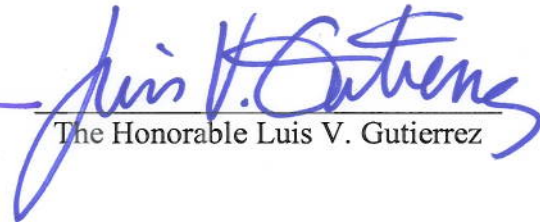


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The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey

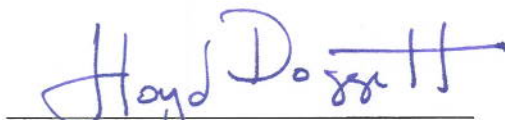
  
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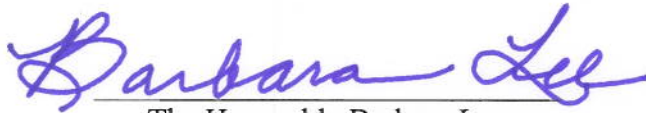
  
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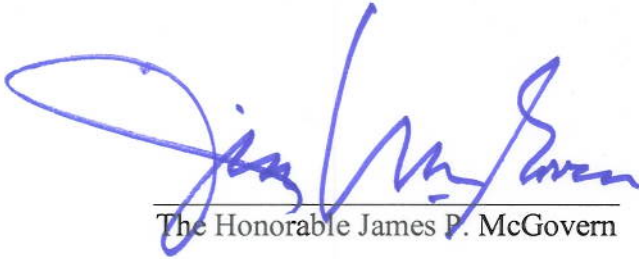
  
The Honorable Chaka Fattah



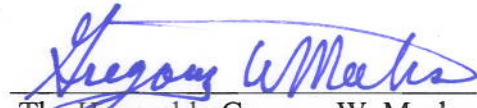
The Honorable Barbara Lee



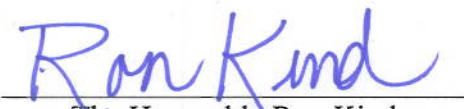
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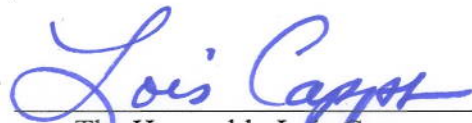
The Honorable James P. McGovern



The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks



The Honorable Ron Kind



The Honorable Lois Capps



The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy



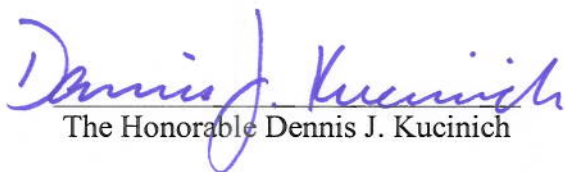
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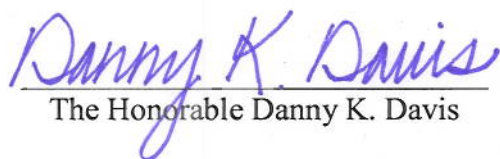
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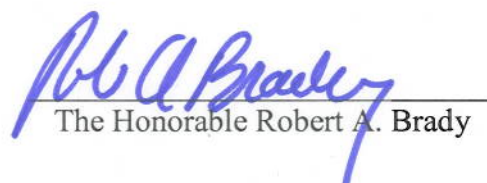


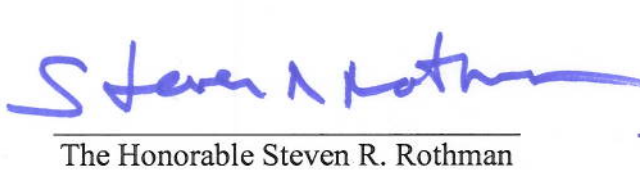
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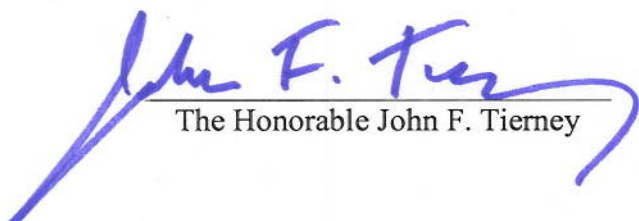
  
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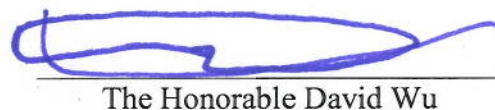
  
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The Honorable Steven R. Rothman

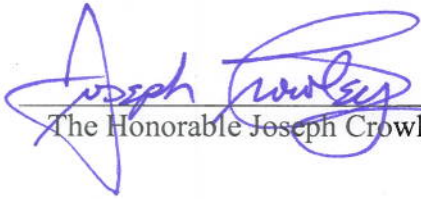
  
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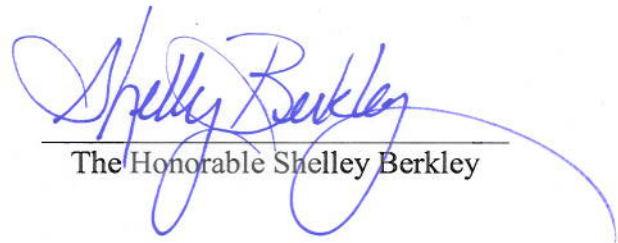
  
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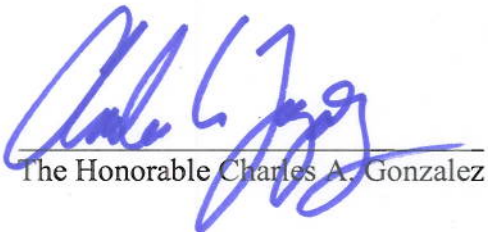
  
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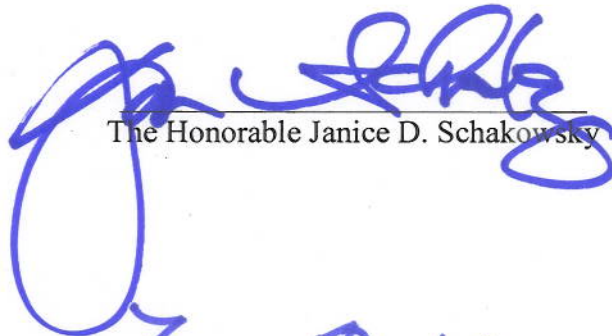
  
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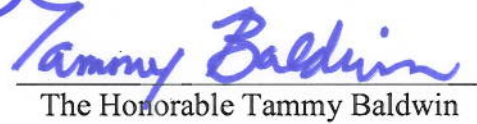
  
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The Honorable Shelley Berkley

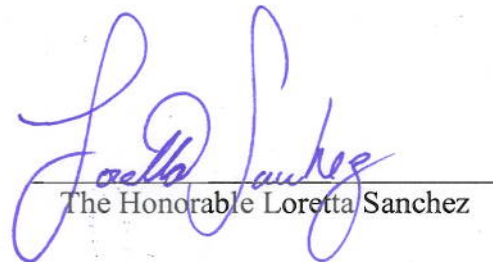
  
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The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky

  
The Honorable Mike Thompson


  
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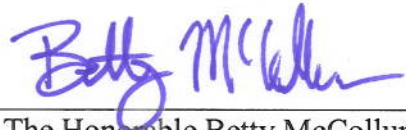
  
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The Honorable Rush D. Holt

  
The Honorable Joe Baca



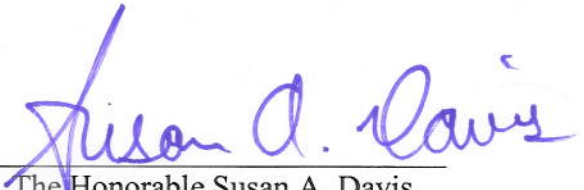
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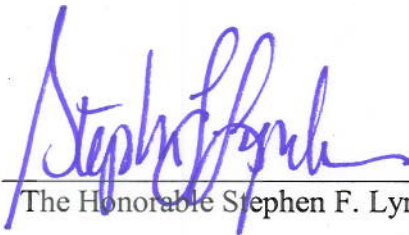
The Honorable Betty McCollum



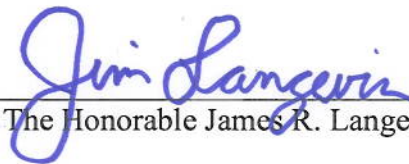
The Honorable Rick Larsen



The Honorable Susan A. Davis



The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch



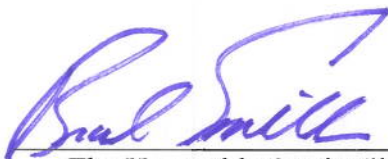
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The Honorable Steve Israel



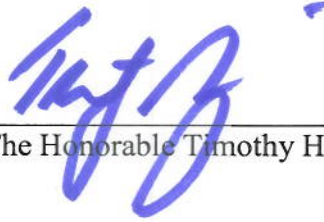
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva



The Honorable Brad Miller



The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez



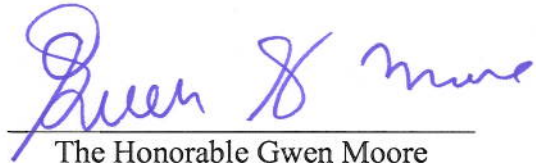
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The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger



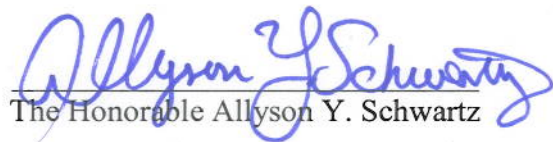
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The Honorable Gwen Moore



The Honorable Albio Sires



The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz



The Honorable Daniel Lipinski



The Honorable Brian Higgins



The Honorable Al Green



The Honorable Russ Carnahan



The Honorable Doris O. Matsui



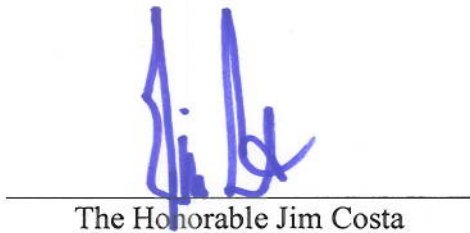
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz



The Honorable Henry Cuellar




The Honorable Dan Boren



The Honorable Jim Costa



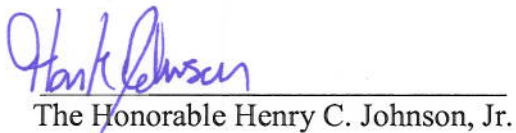
The Honorable Laura Richardson



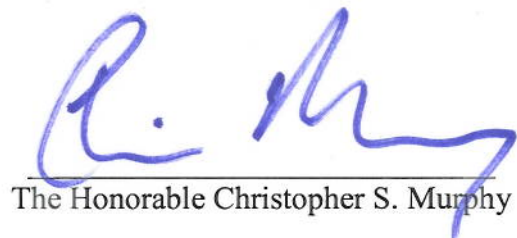
The Honorable Betty Sutton



The Honorable Jason Altmire



The Honorable Henry C. Johnson, Jr.



The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy



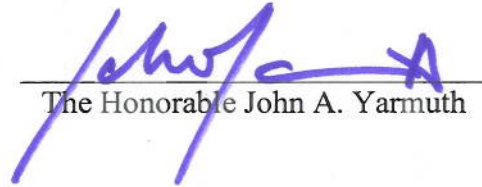
The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono



The Honorable David Loeb sack



The Honorable Joe Courtney



The Honorable John A. Yarmuth



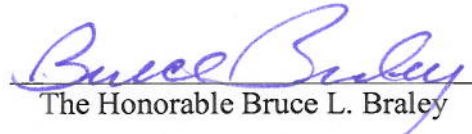
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The Honorable Keith Ellison



The Honorable Peter Welch



The Honorable Bruce L. Braley



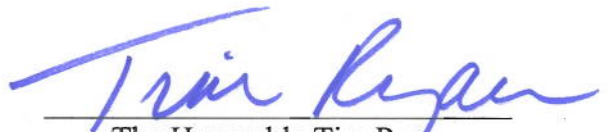
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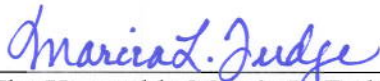
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The Honorable Chris Van Hollen



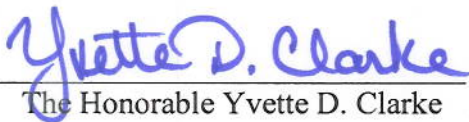
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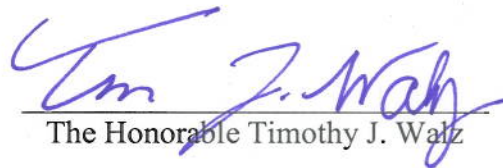
The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge



The Honorable André Carson



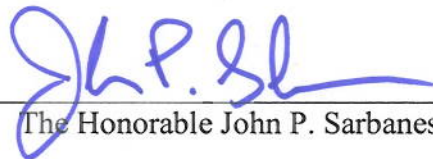
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The Honorable Timothy J. Walz



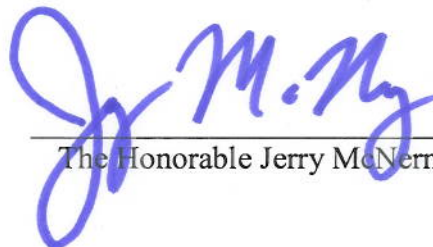
The Honorable Kathy Castor



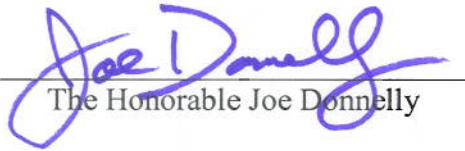
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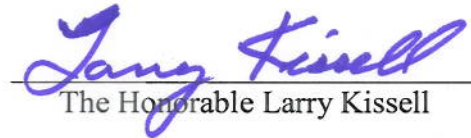


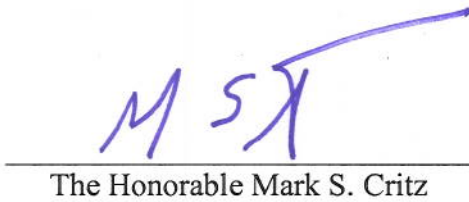
The Honorable Donna F. Edwards



The Honorable Jerry McNerney

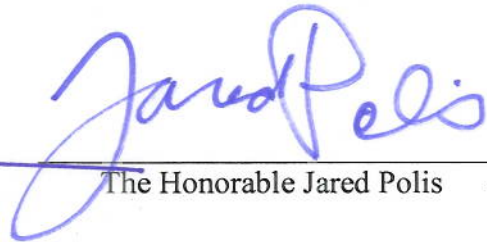
  
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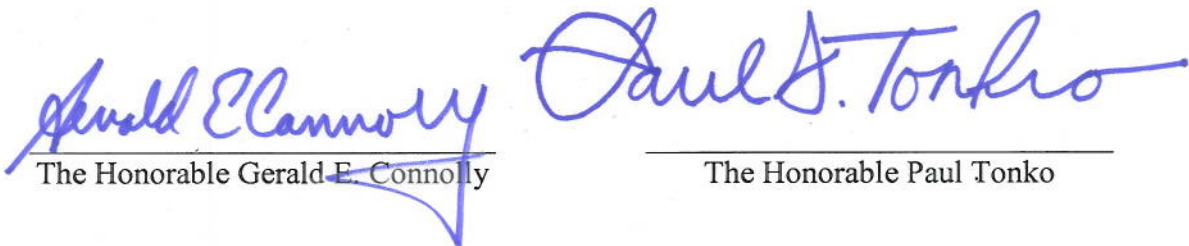
  
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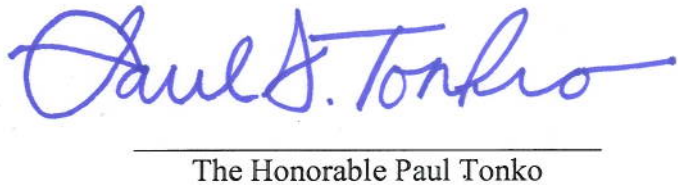
  
The Honorable Mark S. Critz

  
The Honorable Gary C. Peters

  
The Honorable Chellie Pingree

  
The Honorable Jared Polis

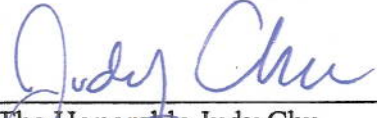
  
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The Honorable Paul Tonko


  
The Honorable Kurt Schrader

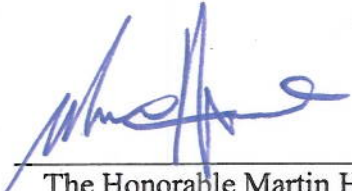
  
The Honorable William L. Owens


  
The Honorable John Garamendi

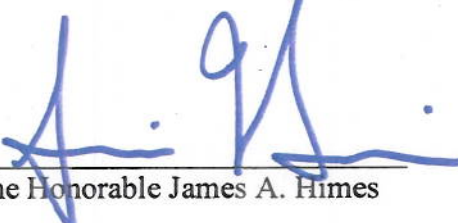
  
The Honorable Judy Chu

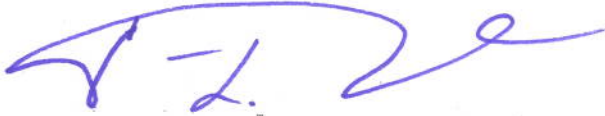
  
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján


  
The Honorable Theodore E. Deutch


  
The Honorable Martin Heinrich

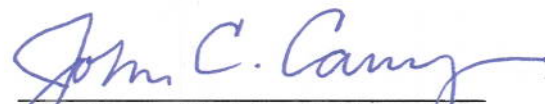
  
The Honorable Mike Quigley


  
The Honorable James A. Himes

  
The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond


  
The Honorable David N. Cicilline

  
The Honorable Hansen Clarke

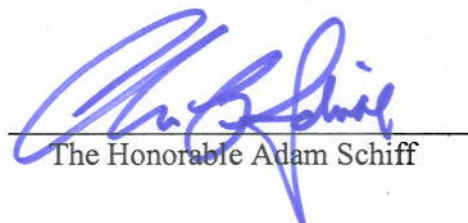
  
The Honorable John C. Carney, Jr.

  
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell

  
The Honorable William R. Keating

  
The Honorable Colleen W. Hanabusa

  
The Honorable Maxine Waters

  
The Honorable Adam Schiff