

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2005

The Honorable Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

We are writing because we are deeply concerned about recent developments in Darfur, delay in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and an apparent shift in U.S. policy towards the Government of Sudan. We are especially troubled, as our government's policy appears conciliatory at a time when the violence in Darfur grows worse and the plight of its victims more terrible.

The security situation in Darfur has deteriorated significantly over the past few weeks. African Union troops have been killed and kidnapped and humanitarian aid workers have been attacked. All main roads of el-Geneina have been closed to travel because of escalating violence and United Nations' officials estimate that at least 650,000 refugees are now beyond the reach of humanitarian aid. According to UN envoy Jan Pronk, the UN itself will evacuate all non-essential personnel from West Darfur because of escalating violence.

This development emphasizes the ongoing struggle that humanitarian aid organizations face. Many respected humanitarian organizations report serious difficulties in receiving and renewing visas from Khartoum to travel to Darfur. In addition to consistent harassment, the Government of Sudan continually threatens to suspend their operations.

We are convinced that the Government of Sudan is determined to carry out a policy of genocide by attrition. While we may no longer see atrocious pictures of mutilated and murdered civilians and burning villages, the Government of Sudan, led by the National Congress Party, is still coordinating an attack on the citizens of Darfur. Khartoum has made no visible effort to disarm its proxies, the Janjaweed militias, to hold the perpetrators responsible and cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) or to bring security to the Internally Displaced Person Camps (IDP). A recent report by the UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Juan E. Mendez, stated that "renewed fighting in North and South Darfur and the lawlessness in West Darfur are not only reminders of that precariousness; they should be considered signs of slippage in security." Two and a half million civilians are displaced, many are living in high concentrations in IDP camps where violence occurs each day and militias haunt the camps. In this atmosphere of fear and unrest we do not believe that civilians can be encouraged to return to their villages.

We are equally concerned about the delay in implementation of the CPA. The Government of Sudan has refused to implement the decision of the Abyei Boundary Commission, as called for in the CPA. They have been dilatory in establishing key commissions, including the Assessment and Evaluation Commission and the North-South Boundary Commission. Withdrawal of government troops from the South, as mandated in the CPA, has also been painfully slow. More troubling is the Government's attempt to retain control over key ministries and to avoid reforming the security services, civil service and the judiciary. We fear that the cumulative effect of these failures could lead to the collapse of the agreement and possibly to a resumption of hostilities. We suspect that Khartoum may seek to take advantage of the tragic death of John Garang to renege on commitments made to the people of the South.

Furthermore, we are alarmed by the response of our own government to these troubling developments. Rather than hold accountable a regime that the President, former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and the Congress declared guilty of genocide, we appear to be engaged in a policy of appeasement. We were encouraged by the President's reaffirmation of his Administration's declaration of genocide; but we are concerned that recent measures may indicate a shift in policy. In April, we were alarmed to hear that the CIA sent a private plane to pick up Sudan's security chief, Salah Abdallah Gosh, to bring him to Washington for talks. We wrote to you to express our deep concern that the U.S. government would bring someone considered to be the orchestrator of the genocide to U.S. soil.

Now, the Government of Sudan—which includes the very same people who were in power when over 400,000 civilians were killed—has been granted a waiver by the State Department to hire a U.S. lobbyist for \$530,000 whose job it is to “assist the [Government of the Republic of Sudan] in meeting its objectives, specifically regarding public relations.” We are alarmed by the thought that a U.S. business will assist a government whose “objectives” are genocidal to repair its image. We should not be complicit in their public relations campaign.

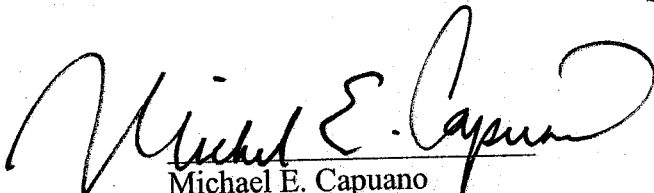
Further evidence of a shift in U.S. policy comes in the recent report that Sudan's Trafficking in Persons status has been upgraded from a Tier III to a Tier II watch-list country. We see no evidence that would suggest that Sudan deserves to join the company of democratic countries such as Switzerland and Israel that are in Tier II. The fact that Sudan was placed on the “watch-list” is little comfort since all countries are being watched and evaluated. Your statement on this upgrade says that Sudan “is making significant efforts” and “is based on commitments by the country to take additional steps.” Only this past January the UN Commission of Inquiry released a report on Darfur in which it documented cases of Sudanese troops involved in abductions and sexual slavery. On what grounds, then, was Sudan upgraded? What “significant efforts” were made? And for what purpose was Sudan's Trafficking in Persons status elevated?

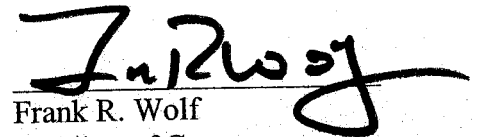
The United States has ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and our government has declared that the atrocities in Darfur

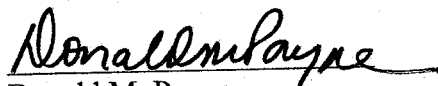
constitute genocide. We view with the gravest concern actions that appear inconsistent with that commitment.


We look forward to receiving, in a timely fashion, clarification of the U.S. government's policy with regard to the Government of Sudan. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.


Sincerely,

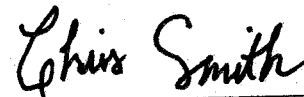

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair

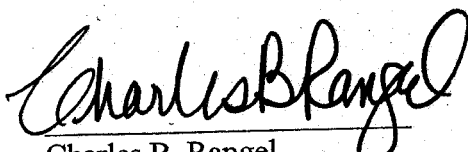

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair

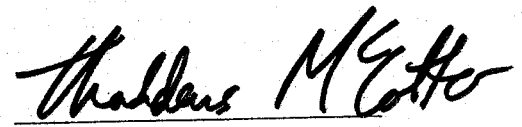

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair



Thomas G. Tancredo
Member of Congress
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair

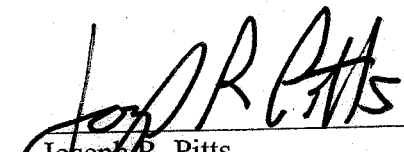

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress

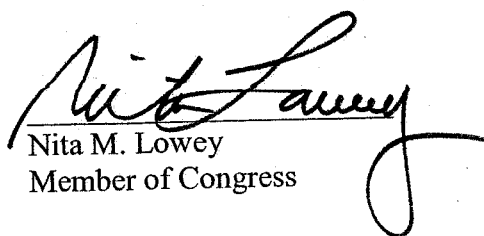

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

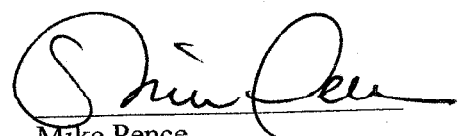

Charles B. Rangel
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Thaddeus G. McCotter
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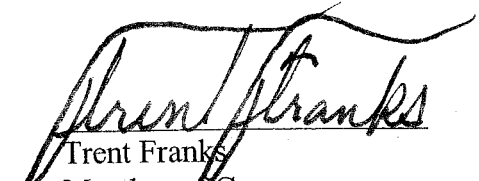

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

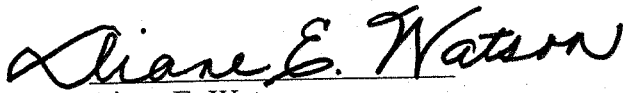

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress

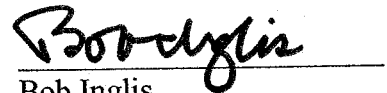

Nita M. Lowey
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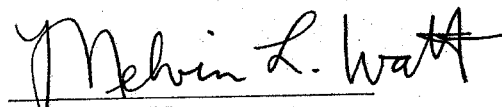

Mike Pence
Member of Congress

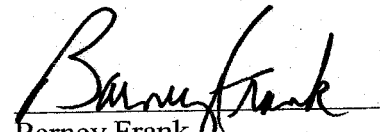

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

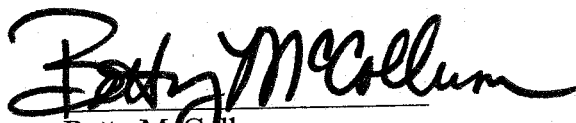

Trent Franks
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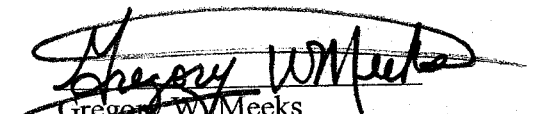

Diane E. Watson
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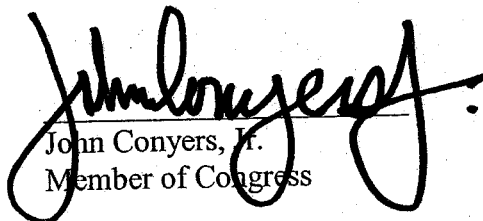

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

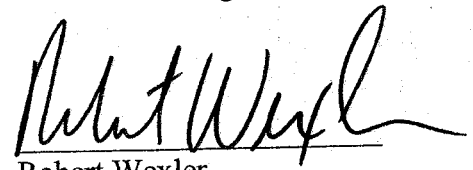

Betty McCollum
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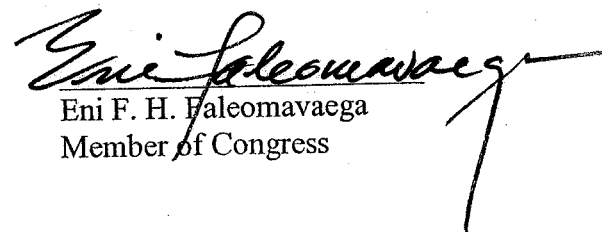

Earl Blumenauer
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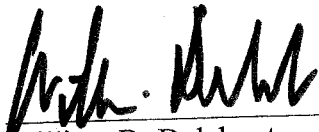

Sherrod Brown
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John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

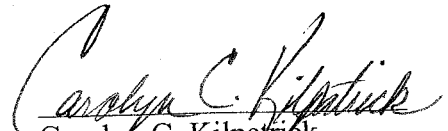

Robert Wexler
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Gary Ackerman
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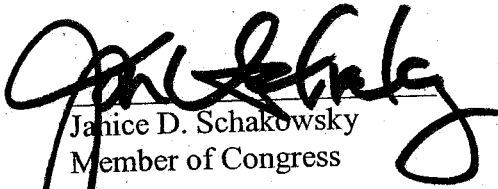

Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
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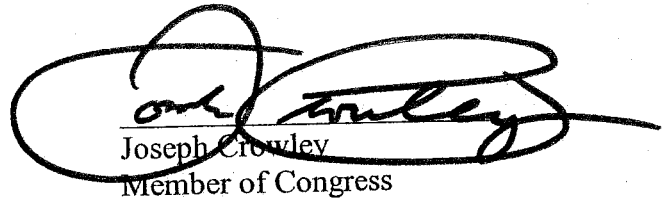
William D. Delahunt
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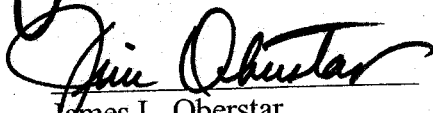
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
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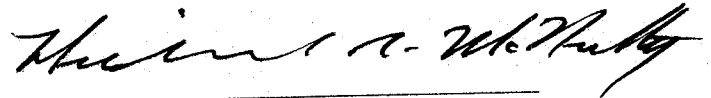
Janice D. Schakowsky
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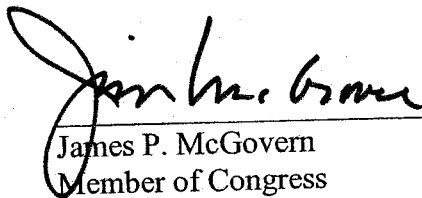
Joseph Crowley
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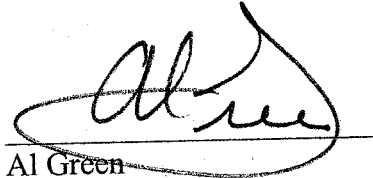
James L. Oberstar
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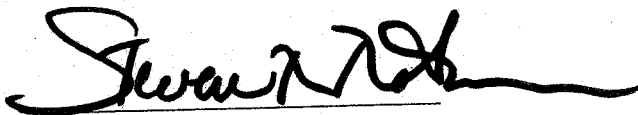
Michael R. McNulty
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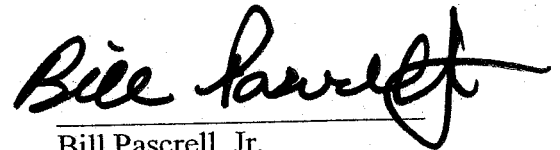
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



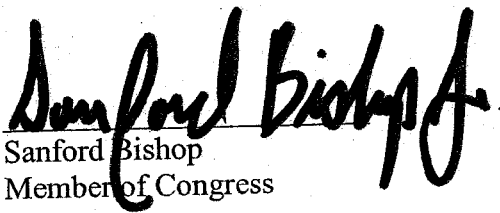
Al Green
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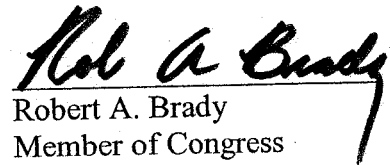
Steven R. Rothman
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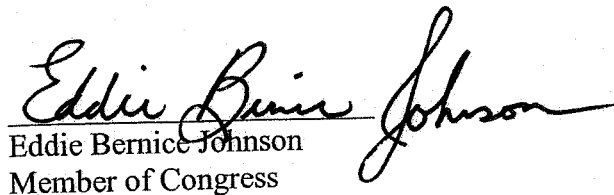
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



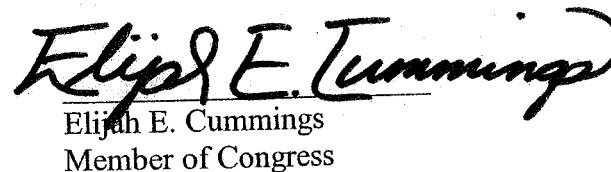
Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



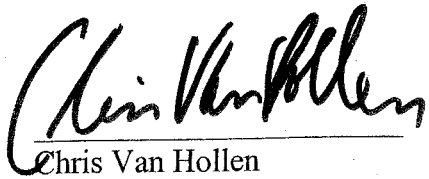
Robert A. Brady
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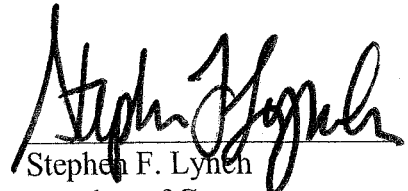
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress




Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



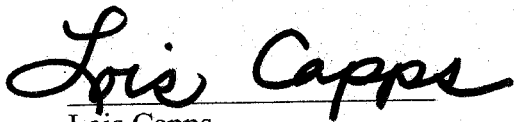
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



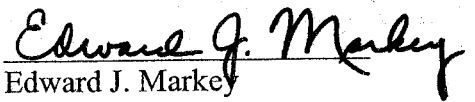
Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



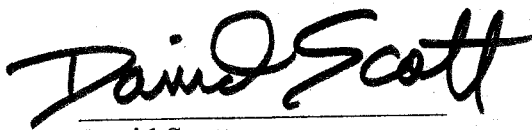
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



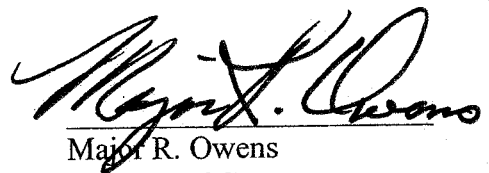
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



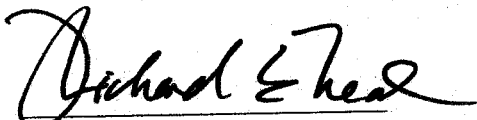
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Major R. Owens
Member of Congress



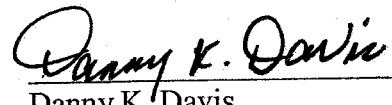
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



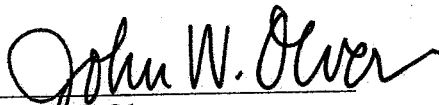
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



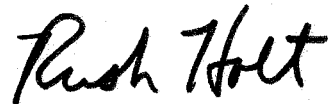
Julia Carson
Member of Congress



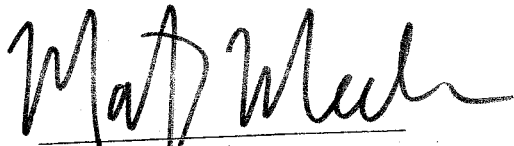
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



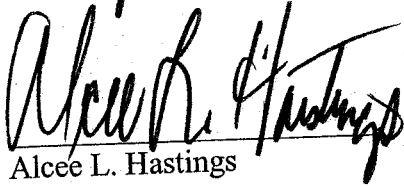
John W. Olver
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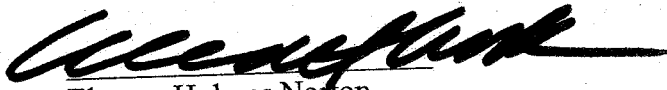
Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



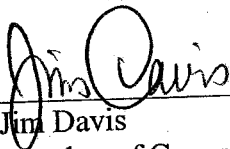
Martin T. Meehan
Member of Congress



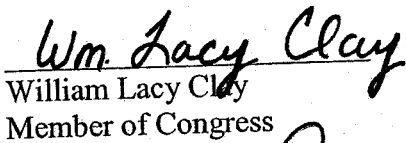
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



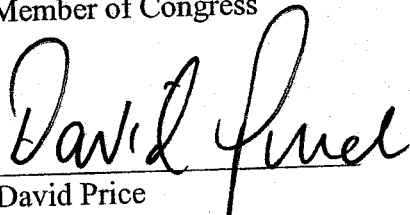
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



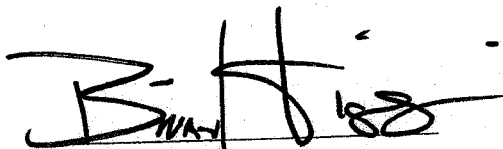
Jim Davis
Member of Congress



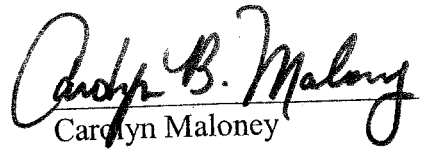
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



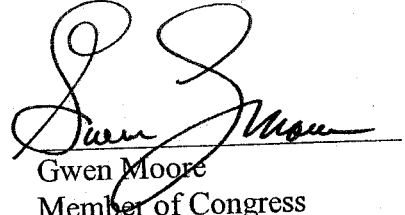
David Price
Member of Congress



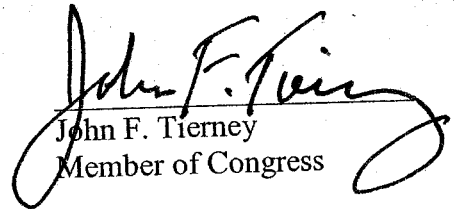
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



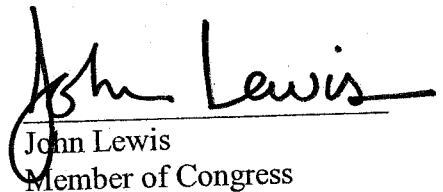
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



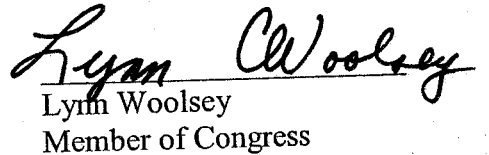
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



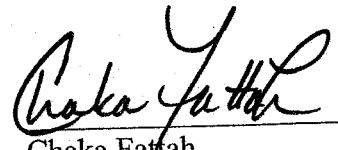
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



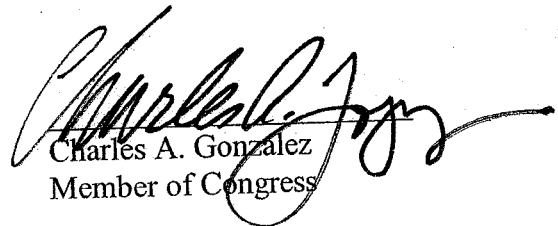
John Lewis
Member of Congress




Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

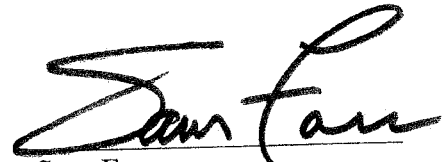


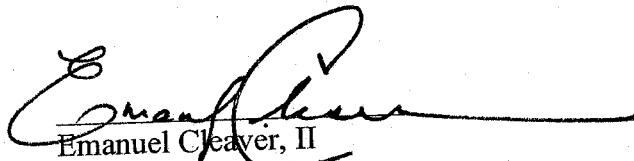
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

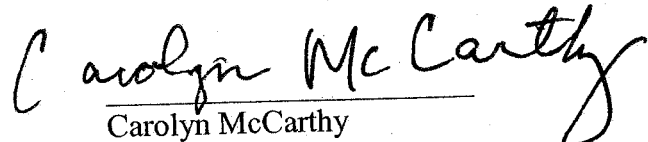


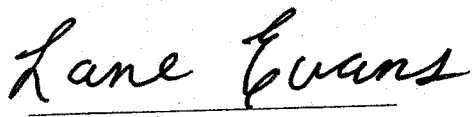
Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

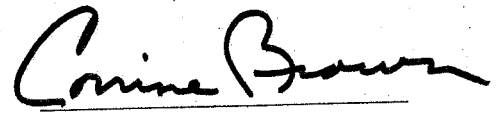

Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress

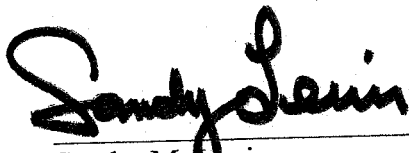

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

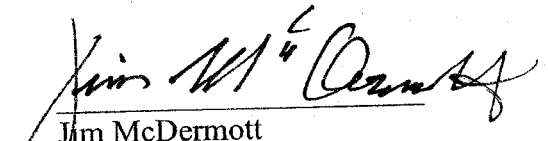

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

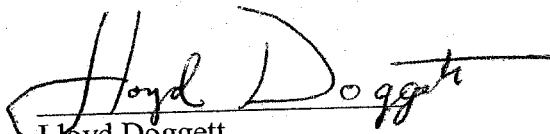

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

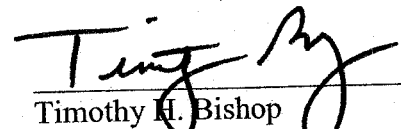

Lane Evans
Member of Congress

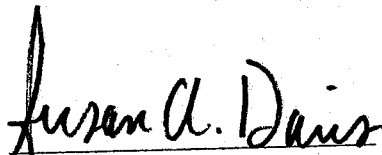

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

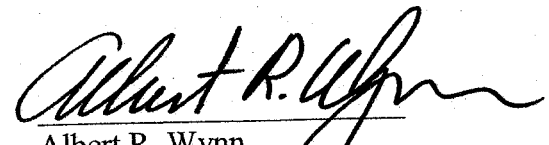

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

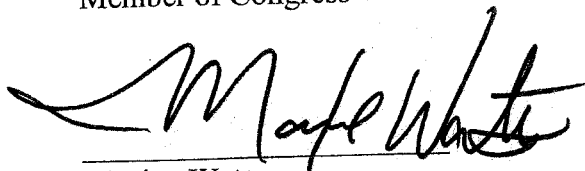

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

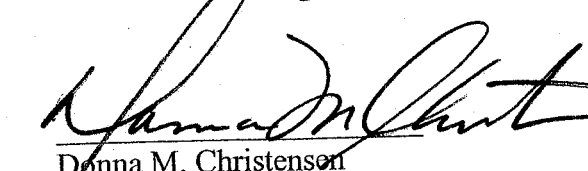

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress


Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress


Albert R. Wynn
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Donna M. Christenson
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Hilda L. Solis
Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Artur Davis
Artur Davis
Member of Congress

Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress


William Jefferson
William Jefferson
Member of Congress

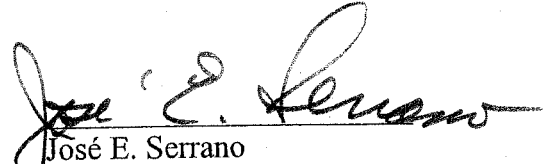
Robert C. Scott
Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress

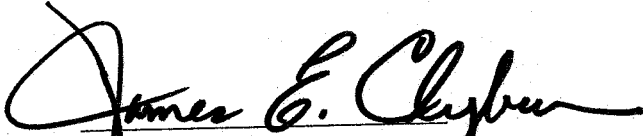
Bennie G. Thompson
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

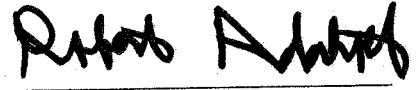
Zoe Lofgren
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Maurice D. Hinchey
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

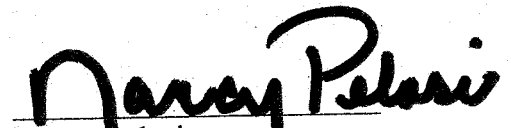

James P. Moran
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

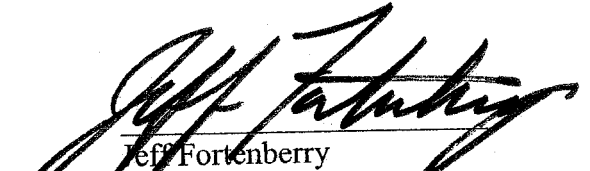

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

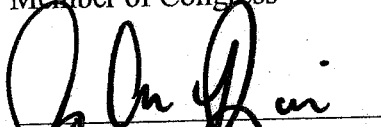

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress


James A. Leach
Member of Congress


Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress


Bart Gordon
Member of Congress


Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress


Jo Ann Davis
Member of Congress