

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

September 13, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
H-107 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
H-148 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On May 25, 2016, the Senate voted 55 to 43 in favor of S.J. Res. 28, a bipartisan joint resolution of disapproval under the procedures of the Congressional Review Act. This joint resolution would disapprove of the rule creating the U.S. Department of Agriculture catfish program and return inspection of catfish back to the Food and Drug Administration, which currently regulates all other species of seafood. The House should be afforded the opportunity for a floor vote on this important joint resolution before the August work period.

As a reminder, the USDA catfish program was added by the Senate to the 2008 Farm Bill conference report. It was in neither the House bill nor the Senate bill and was never subject to a hearing, debate or a vote before it appeared in the 2008 conference report. This language unnecessarily shifts catfish inspection from the FDA to the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Any facility that processes catfish and any other species of fish is subject to duplicative regulation: USDA for catfish and FDA for all other species. We believe the best use of taxpayers' dollars is to have one regulator for seafood by returning the oversight of catfish to the FDA.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has 10 times stated that this program is "duplicative" and at "high risk" for fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. GAO concludes that the USDA catfish program "would result in duplication of federal programs and cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually without enhancing the safety of catfish intended for human consumption." (GAO-13-283) This is not a food safety issue. USDA acknowledges that catfish, regardless of where it comes from, is considered a "low risk food." Similarly, the GAO found no food safety data supporting the transfer of inspection to the USDA. President Obama agrees and has proposed to eliminate the USDA catfish program in previous budgets.

consideration of the Farm Bill. It is imperative that regular order and common sense prevail, and we respectfully request that this joint resolution be brought to the floor for immediate consideration.

Sincerely,



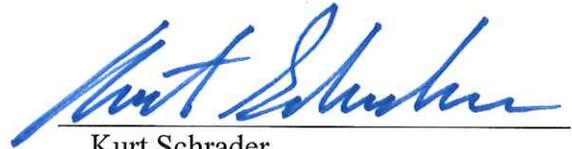
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



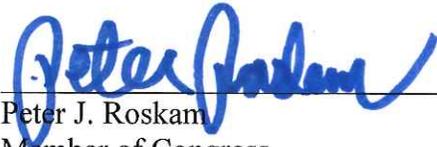
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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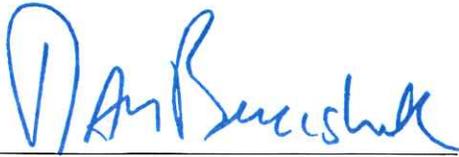
Ann M. Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Dan Benishek  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Cheri Bustos  
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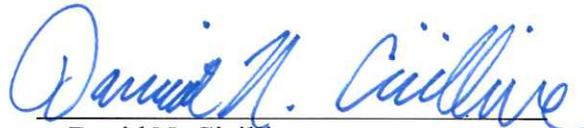
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
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Rod Blum  
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David N. Cicilline  
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Dave Brat  
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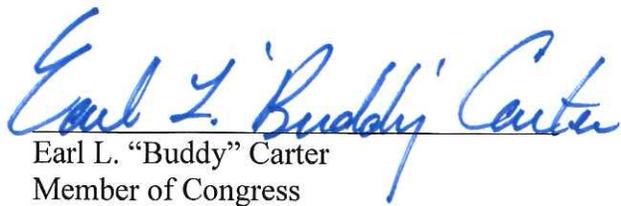
Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

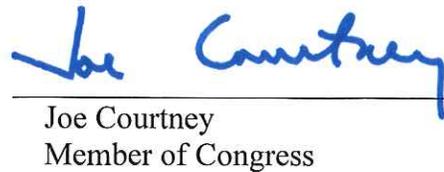


Jim Bridenstine  
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
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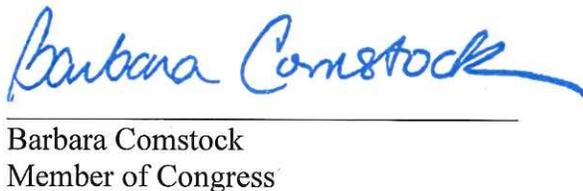
  
Debbie Dingell  
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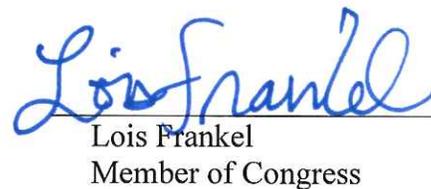
  
Mike Coffman  
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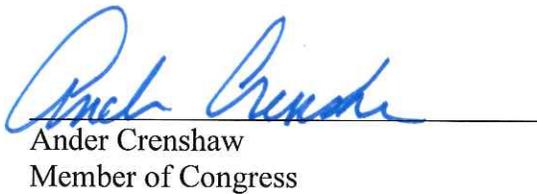
  
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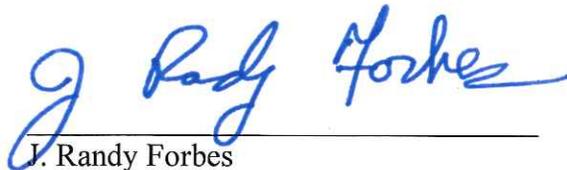
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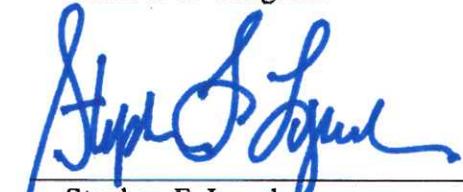
  
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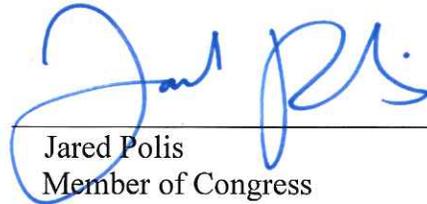
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Robert "Bobby" C. Scott  
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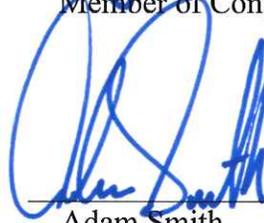
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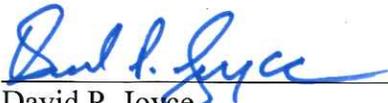
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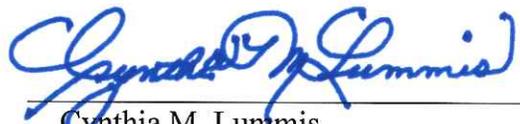
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



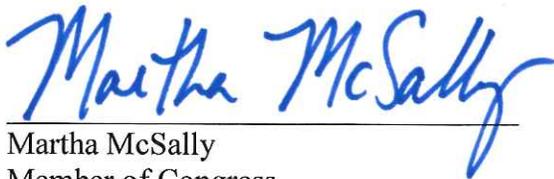
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Mark Meadows  
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Don Young  
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Mike Pompeo  
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Dave Reichert  
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Reid J. Ribble  
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E. Scott Rigell  
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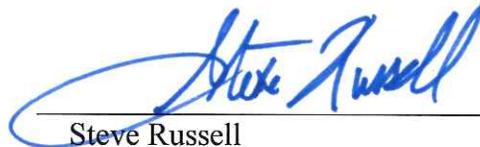
David P. Roe  
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Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



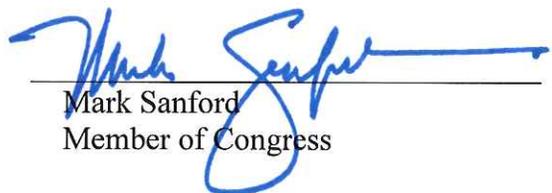
Edward E. Royce  
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Steve Russell  
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Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



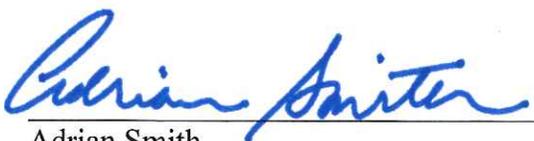
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Michael K. Simpson  
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Adrian Smith  
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John Ratcliffe  
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Elise M. Stefanik  
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Marlin A. Stutzman  
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GT Thompson  
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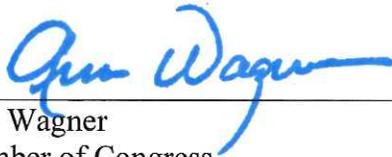
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Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton  
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David G. Valadao  
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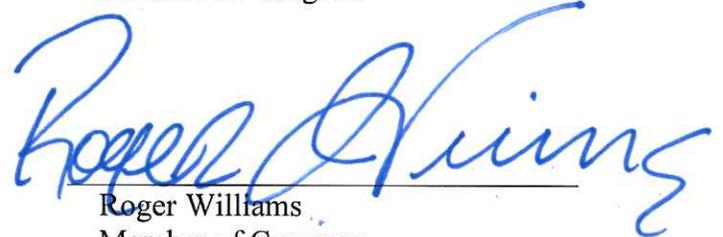
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



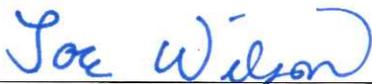
Mark Walker  
Member of Congress



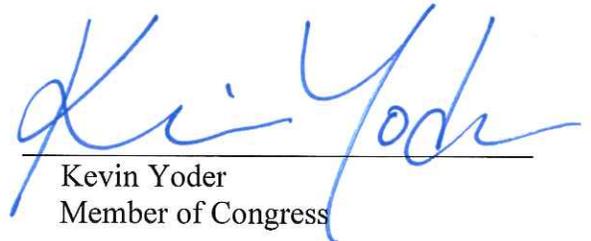
Lynn A. Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



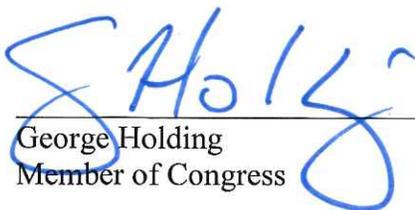
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



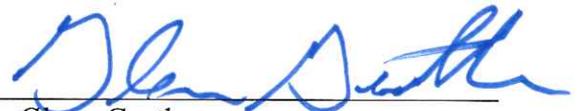
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



George Holding  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



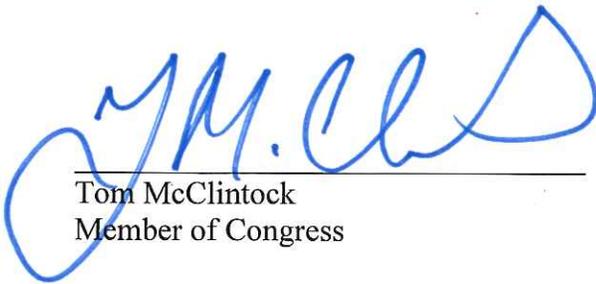
Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



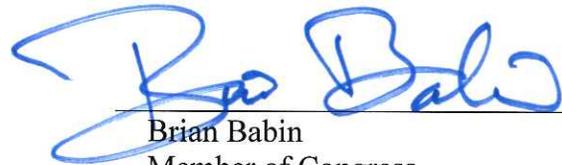
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



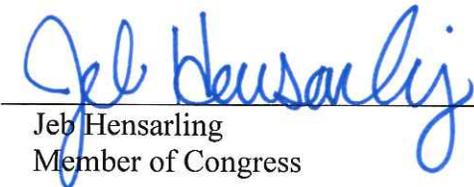
John Abney Culberson  
Member of Congress



Mia Love  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



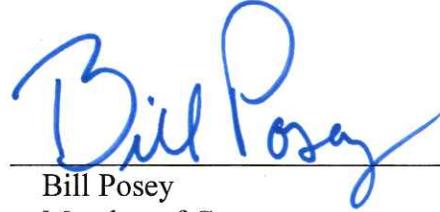
Mimi Walters  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



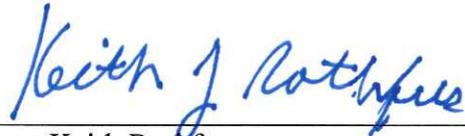
Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



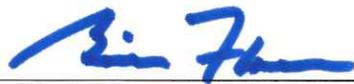
David Loebsack  
Member of Congress



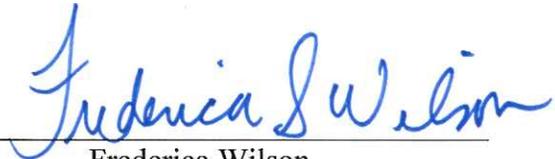
Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



Todd Young  
Member of Congress



Diane Black  
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



Tom Graves  
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress



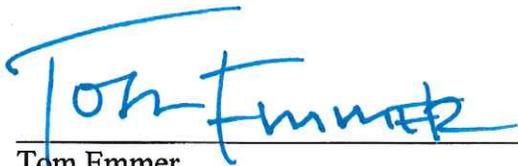
Bill Huizenga  
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Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



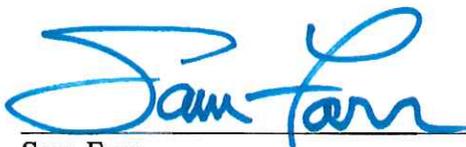
Brad Wenstrup  
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Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



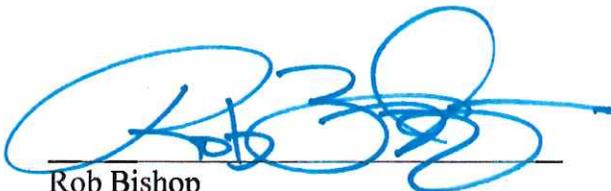
Eric Swalwell  
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Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Theodore Deutch  
Member of Congress



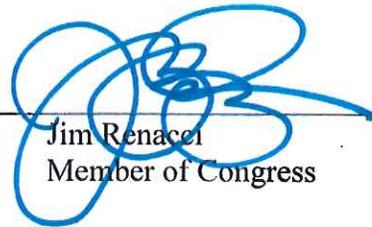
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



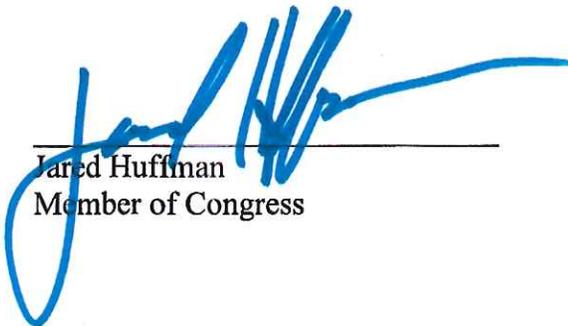
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Kathy Castor  
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Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



David Young  
Member of Congress



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Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



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Steve Stivers  
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Cresent Hardy  
Member of Congress



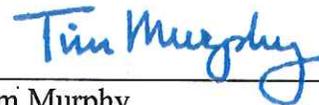
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Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



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Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress



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Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress



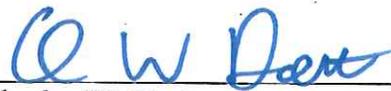
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Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



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Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



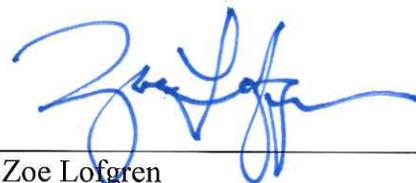
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Charles W. Dent  
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Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



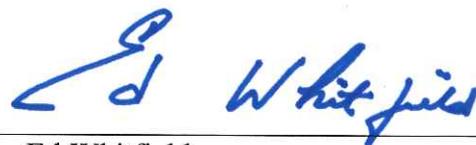
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Member of Congress



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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



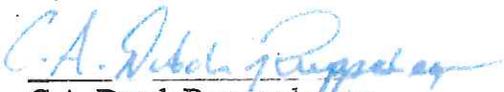
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



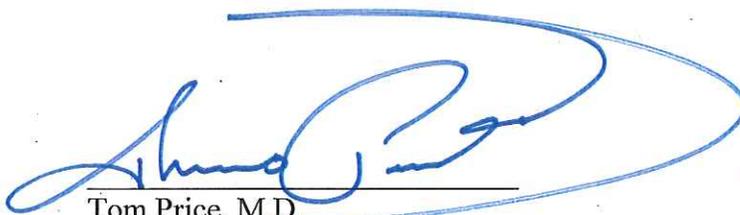
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
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Tom Marino  
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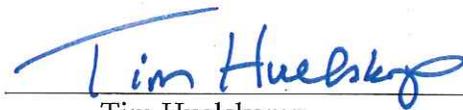
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Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress

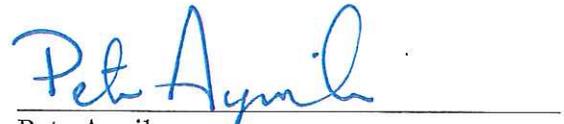


Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

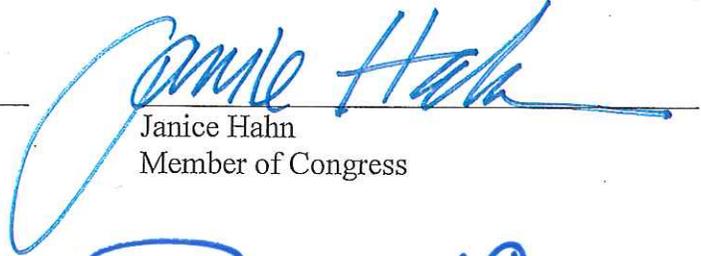


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Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress

  
Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
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Janice Hahn  
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Michael E. Capuano  
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

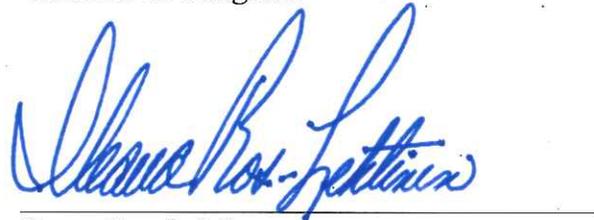
  
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