

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO), with support from its Federal Budget, Grants, and Contracting and National Security Acquisitions teams, among others, establish an accessible database to systematically track disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)¹ and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)². The Trump Administration's disruptive January 20, 2025 Executive Order 14154³ sowed chaos and confusion across the country for Federal funding recipients, and the Administration's subsequent actions, such as the clarifying guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in memorandum M-25-11 on January 21, 2025,⁴ the notice of court order distributed by the Department of Justice on February 3, 2025⁵, and many of the Administration's subsequent actions have been insufficient to provide certainty for our constituents.

Many of the aforementioned executive actions have caused Federal agencies to halt the disbursement of funds for a wide range of energy and environmental programs, including initiatives that support clean energy deployment, grid modernization, electric vehicle infrastructure, and energy efficiency upgrades for low-income communities.

The freezing of IRA and IIJA funds has already had immediate and measurable consequences, jeopardizing national and state climate initiatives and harming communities that rely on this funding. Some real-world examples of the impact that the funding pause has had are:

- School districts in Illinois that received \$15 million in funding from the Department of Energy could not access funds to deploy zero-emission school buses that are integrated with on-site battery systems to help school buildings keep the lights on during power outages and improve air pollution.
- States have been denied access to funding intended to help low-income communities install residential solar panels, reducing energy costs for vulnerable households.⁶
- A Missouri school district has been blocked from accessing a \$9.45 million Environmental Protection Agency grant intended to transition its school bus fleet to electric vehicles, a move that would reduce refueling costs and lower student exposure to harmful air emissions.⁷
- Grid modernization projects in Georgia are at risk, threatening regional energy reliability and increasing costs for ratepayers.⁸

¹ *Public Law 117-169*; <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ169/PLAW-117publ169.pdf>

² *Public Law 117-58*; <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf>

³ Executive Order 14154; January 20, 2025;

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/29/2025-01956/unleashing-american-energy>

⁴ *Memorandum to the Heads of Departments and Agencies*; Office of Management and Budget; January 21, 2025;

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/01/omb-memo-m-25-11/>

⁵ *State of New York v. Trump, 1:25-cv-00039, (D.R.I.), the February 3, 2025 Notice of Court Order*;

https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.rid.58912/gov.uscourts.rid.58912.51.1_1.pdf

⁶ *Trump's Halt on Climate Spending Freezes Jobs and Stalls Projects*; New York Times; February 1, 2025;

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/01/climate/trump-ira-climate-spending-halt-jobs-construction.html>

⁷ *Ritenour School District bus funds frozen amid federal budget turmoil*; Newsradio 1120 KMOX; February 5, 2025;

<https://www.audacy.com/kmox/news/local/ritenour-school-district-unable-to-pay-for-new-buses>

⁸ *Trump funding freeze puts \$1 billion investment in Georgia power grid on ice*; The Atlanta Journal Constitution; February 6, 2025;

<https://www.ajc.com/news/business/1-billion-georgia-electric-grid-updates-on-hold-amid-trump-funding-freeze/>

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These are only a few examples of the widespread impact of this funding freeze. The lack of transparency around the executive order's implementation has made it difficult for impacted communities, businesses, and state governments to plan effectively, creating unnecessary uncertainty, financial hardship, and disruption to critical infrastructure projects.

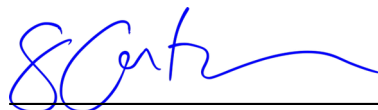
Federal courts have weighed in on this matter. On January 31 and February 3, 2025, two separate Federal court rulings found that the funding freeze raises constitutional concerns and issued temporary injunctions blocking any efforts to “pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate” these appropriated funds.^{9,10} Despite these rulings, on February 10, 2025, a judge in Federal court found that the Trump administration had defied its order to release Federal grant money, directly disobeying a judicial mandate.¹¹ Grant recipients have also reported continued difficulties with payments.¹² In addition, Members of Congress have received little clarity on how Federal agencies are responding and whether funding is now flowing as required by law, with many agencies even preventing building access.¹³

While there is anecdotal and journalistic evidence of these funding disruptions, no comprehensive, publicly accessible database currently exists to track these potential violations systematically. As Members of Congress, we cannot effectively serve our constituents if we cannot see the full extent of the problem. Without transparency, we lack the tools necessary to advocate for communities that depend on these funds. The currently available public reporting on awards and disbursements is insufficient and outdated, making it difficult for us to provide effective and timely information to our constituents – especially those who are most vulnerable and may be afraid to speak out.

We urge the appropriate officers within the GAO to establish a publicly accessible database that tracks the status of IRA and IJA funds, in particular a database that provides details on the awards, obligations, and disbursements of those funds. To the extent practicable, this database should also delineate any funds, awards, obligations, or disbursements affected by the aforementioned or similar Executive Orders and administrative actions. This database would help Congress effectively monitor the status of these historic investments and communicate with our constituents to better navigate a complicated and opaque budget execution process.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sean Casten
Member of Congress

⁹ *State of New York et al v. Trump*; Case 1:25-cv-00039-JJM-PAS;

https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.rid.58912/gov.uscourts.rid.58912.50.0_3.pdf

¹⁰ *National Council of Nonprofits et al v. Office of Management and Budget*; Case 1:25-cv-00239-LLA;

https://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/legaldocs/egpbjrdmpq/02032025funding_tro_dc.pdf

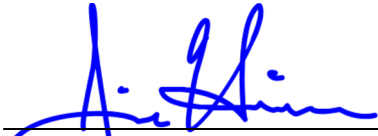
¹¹ *White House Failed to Comply With Court Order, Judge Rules*; New York Times; February 10, 2025;

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/10/us/trump-unfreezing-federal-grants-judge-ruling.html>


¹² *Judge puts another block on Trump spending freeze*; Politico; February 3, 2025; <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/03/trump-federal-funding-freeze-011315>

¹³ *Democrats Blocked From Entering Government Agency for 4th Time in 1 Week*; Newsweek; February 7, 2025;

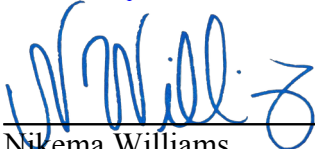
<https://www.newsweek.com/democrats-blocked-education-department-doge-elon-musk-2028047>



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Member of Congress




Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



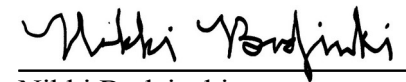
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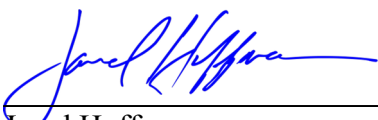
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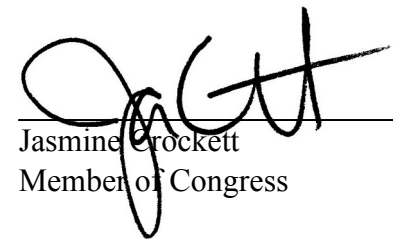
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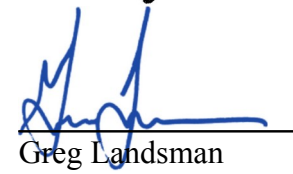
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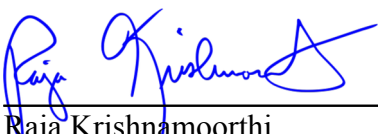
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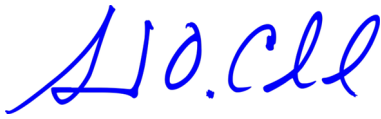
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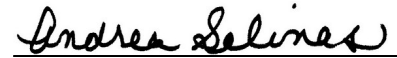
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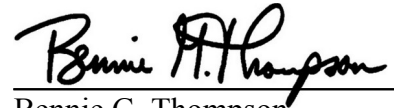
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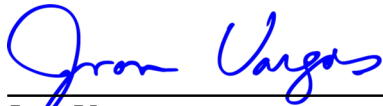
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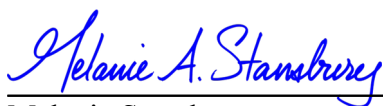
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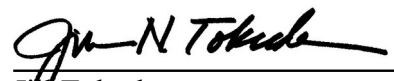
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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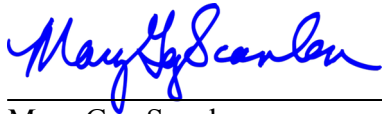
Bill Foster
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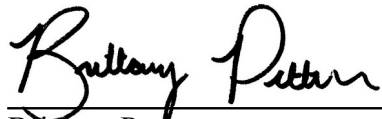
Melanie Stansbury
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Jii Tokuda
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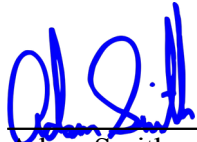
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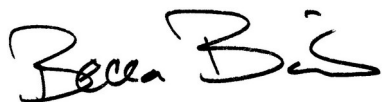
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Becca Balint
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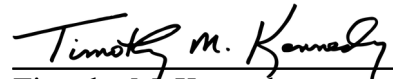
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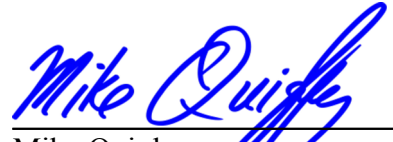
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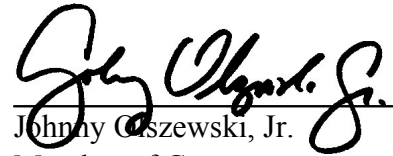
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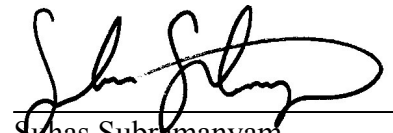
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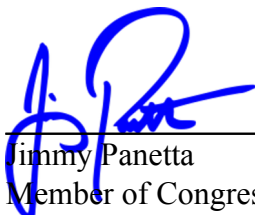
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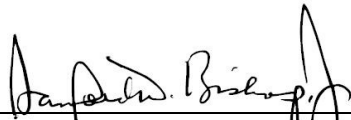
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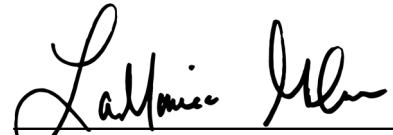

Eleanor Holmes Norton
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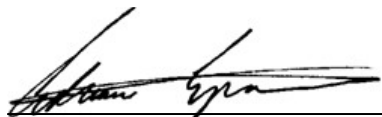

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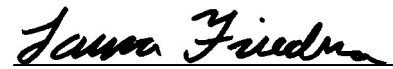

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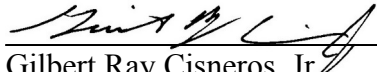

Laura Friedman
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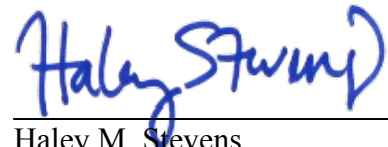

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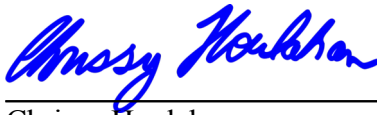

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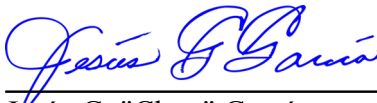

Zoe Lofgren
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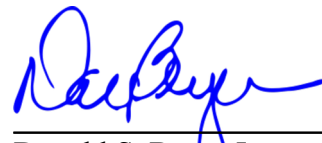

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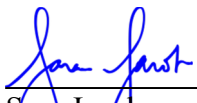

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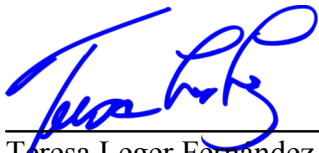

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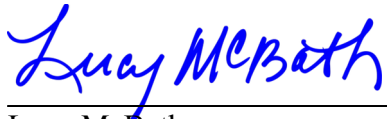
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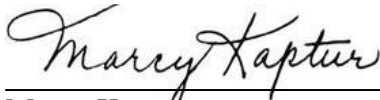
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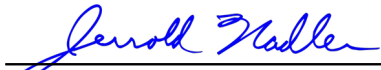
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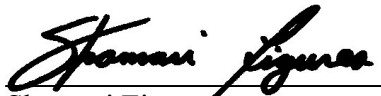
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