

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

October 7, 2025

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to condemn the Department of Energy's (DOE) termination of 321 financial awards, supporting 223 projects supporting energy resilience across the country. We are deeply concerned about your Department's attempt to rebrand the elimination of U.S. clean energy as "\$7.56 billion in savings" to taxpayers¹ and the potential political motivations behind the targeting of projects in Democratic-leaning states.

This decision is a reversal of properly awarded projects that will harm American jobs, drive private capital out of our country, weaken our power grid, and give China a strategic edge. This Administration's decision to play political games will result in genuine harm at a time when millions of American families are already struggling to pay their electricity bills amidst the ever-rising cost of living. These blatantly partisan cancellations must immediately be reversed.

The projects that the Department of Energy (DOE) has unilaterally decided to cancel were driving down costs for *all* our constituents—regardless of their political affiliation. Household electric bills have already increased 10% nationally since January 2025 and are poised to spike even further.² This Administration's reckless energy policy and award terminations, designed to stifle the development of cheap clean energy and prop up more expensive dirty energy, will only further increase the cost burden for families to keep the lights on.

Your press statement claims these projects "did not adequately advance the nation's energy needs, were not economically viable, and would not provide a positive return on investment."³ That is a pretext for cancellations that track political talking points, not facts. Many of these awards had already passed rigorous review, and many of those had already been processed. Companies hired workers, signed contracts, broke ground, and put up private capital in reliance on DOE commitments. Calling that "savings" ignores stranded equipment orders, canceled subcontracts, and layoffs—real costs that ripple through American supply chains. Instead of executing Congress's direction to build U.S. energy leadership and grid reliability, DOE is moving the goalposts while terminating the very projects that would deliver results.

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-termination-223-projects-saving-over-75-billion>

² U.S. Energy Information Administration, https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=table_5_03

³ U.S. Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-termination-223-projects-saving-over-75-billion>

The consequences of these actions are significant: cancellations will shutter facilities, kill jobs, and stall critical domestic manufacturing. They also inject avoidable uncertainty into energy markets—forcing investors to consider political risks that you have created, which raises financing costs. Terminating grid and manufacturing projects locks in congestion and supply-chain bottlenecks, which will lead to higher long-term electricity prices for households and businesses.

We are at a moment of unprecedented growth in electricity demand, which is expected to increase by 25% by 2030.⁴ At a time when more energy supply is needed than ever, these cuts will only exacerbate upward pressure on electricity prices by stranding low-cost supply, delaying grid expansion, and increasing reliance on higher-cost imports. In your confirmation hearing, you pledged to pursue “all sources of affordable, reliable energy” to meet these challenges. By terminating awards for cheap energy solutions and those that strengthen the grid, you are going against your word and worsening the very problem you promised to help solve.

Eliminating the Grid Deployment Office and Office of Clean Energy Deployment projects delays transmission and weakens grid resilience, a shortsighted decision that threatens even steeper increasing costs to American consumers and businesses in the future. Additionally, these so-called “savings” waste sunk federal and state dollars and betray disadvantaged communities by erasing critical work to reduce pollution and improve energy affordability.

Fifteen years ago, China generated less electricity than the United States. Today, China generates more than twice as much as we do—and the gap continues to grow.⁵ As China and other nations continue to innovate and build the energy technologies of the future, this is precisely the wrong time for the U.S. to back out and cede our technological leadership. The rest of the world will continue to innovate with or without us, and these grant terminations will only set our innovation back at a pivotal time.

It is difficult for us to believe that these project terminations were anything but a partisan targeting of states that are not politically aligned with this Administration. These terminations undermine the spirit of competitive, merit-based awards and throw into question the fairness of the award process under this Administration.

As such, we demand that DOE take the following immediate actions by Tuesday, October 14, 2025:

1. Suspend all terminations and de-obligations and reinstate the projects.
2. Provide a complete list of affected awards (office, recipient, state, award number, selection date, federal obligation, non-federal cost share, milestone status) along with the project-specific written justification for termination.

⁴ ICF, <https://www.icf.com/insights/energy/electricity-demand-expected-to-grow>

⁵ Our World in Data, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/electricity-generation>

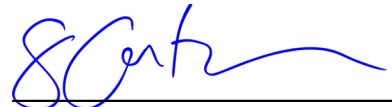
3. Identify the specific statutory and regulatory authorities relied upon for these mass post-award terminations.
4. Preserve and provide all Department of Energy records, memoranda, and communications related to the review and termination of these awards, including those resulting from the May 2025 Secretarial memorandum “Ensuring Responsibility for Financial Assistance.”
5. Describe DOE’s process for recipient appeals and dispute resolution, including timelines, decision-makers, and whether interim funding will be permitted to avoid waste while appeals are pending.

Dismantling America’s advanced-energy buildout under the banner of “savings” does not protect taxpayers—it subsidizes our competitors. It means higher bills and fewer American jobs. We will utilize every oversight and legislative tool available to ensure the DOE follows the law, honors congressional intent, and keeps the United States at the forefront of the global energy race.

Sincerely,



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



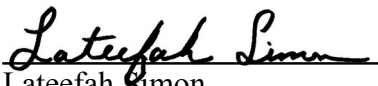
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



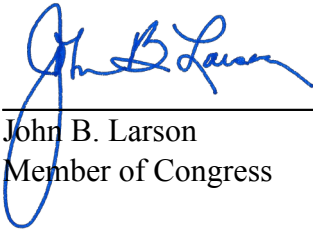
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



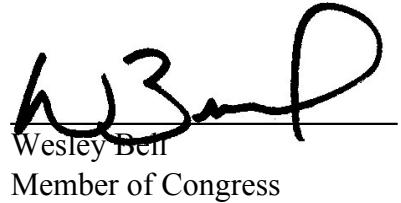
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



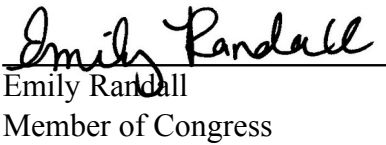
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



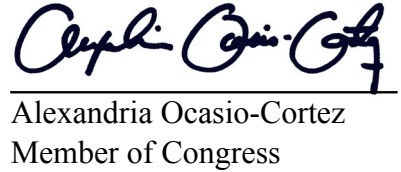
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



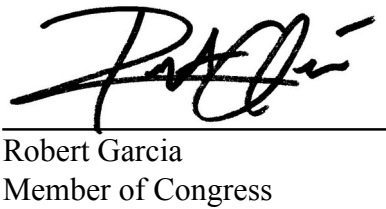
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



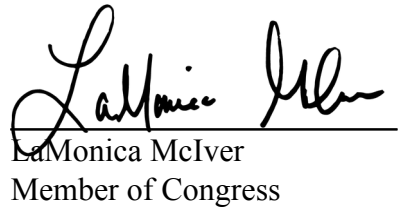
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



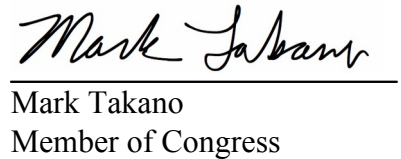
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



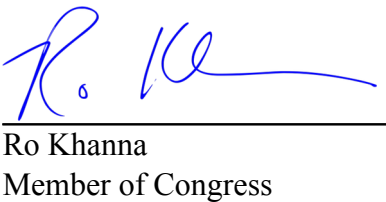
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



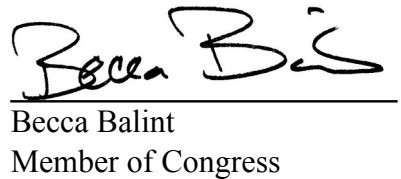
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



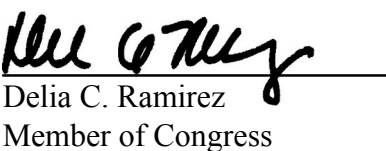
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



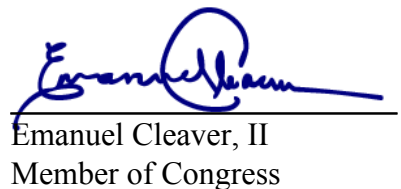
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



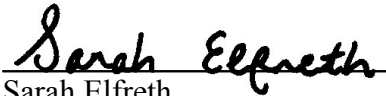
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



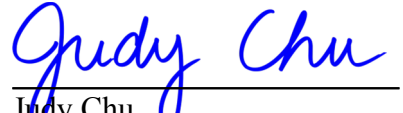
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



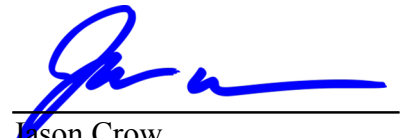
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



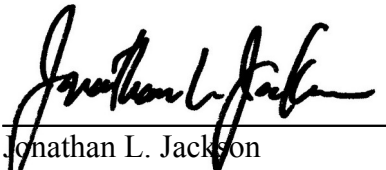
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



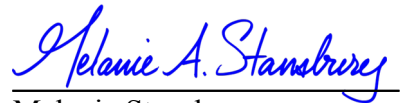
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



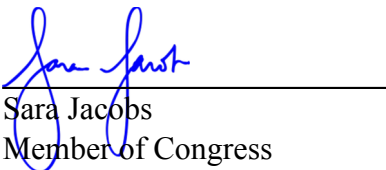
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



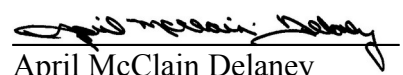
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



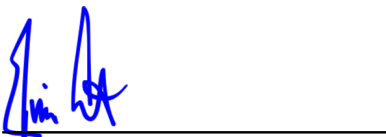
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
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April McClain Delaney
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Jim Costa
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Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



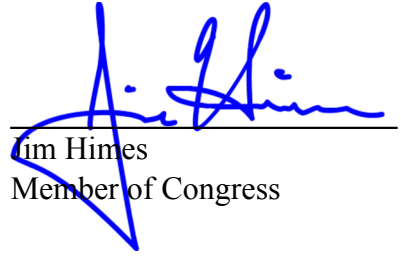
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Josh Harder
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Dave Min
Member of Congress



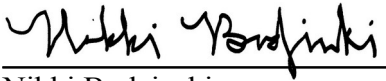
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
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Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



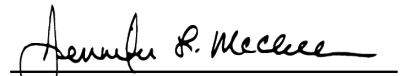
Nikki Budzinski
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Salud Carbajal
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Laura Friedman
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Lori Trahan
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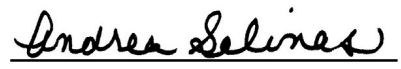
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



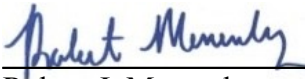
Seth Magaziner
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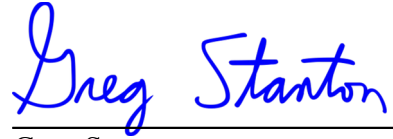
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
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Robert J. Menendez
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Greg Stanton
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Juan Vargas
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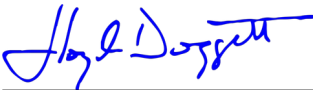
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



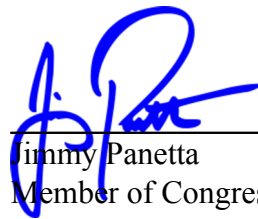
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
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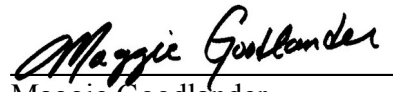
Lloyd Doggett
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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



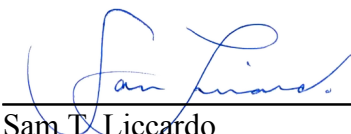
Maggie Goodlander
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Doris Matsui
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Luz M. Rivas
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Sam T. Liccardo
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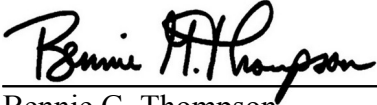
Rick Larsen
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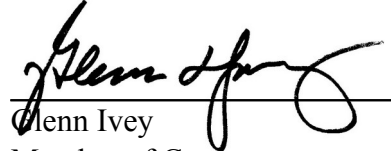
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Danny K. Davis
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Bennie G. Thompson
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Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



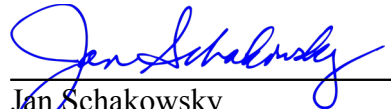
André Carson
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Seth Moulton
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Robin L. Kelly
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



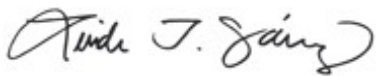
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



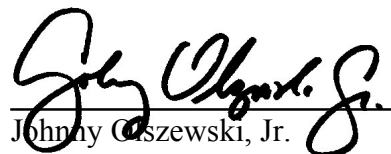
Pramila Jayapal
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Eugene Simon Vindman
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Johnny Osceola, Jr.
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



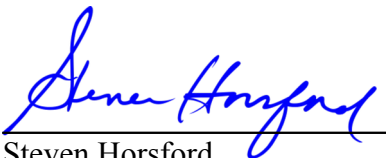
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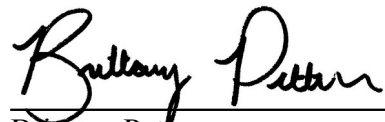
Stephen F. Lynch
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Gabe Vasquez
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Steven Horsford
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Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



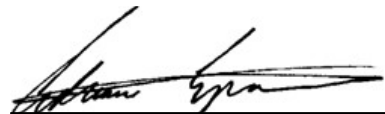
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



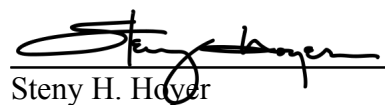
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



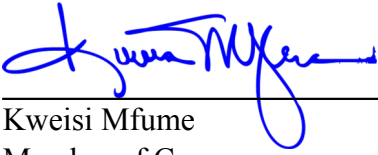
Adriano Espaillat
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



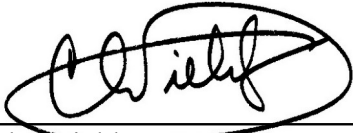
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



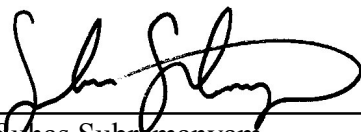
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



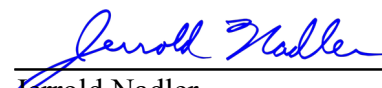
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Terrold Nadler
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Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
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Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Zoe Lofgren
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Kathy Castor
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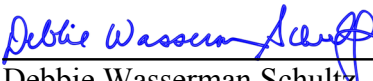
Dwight Evans
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



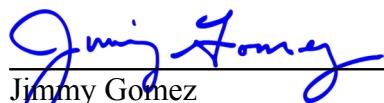
Chris Pappas
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Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



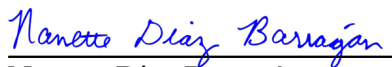
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



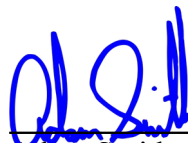
Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



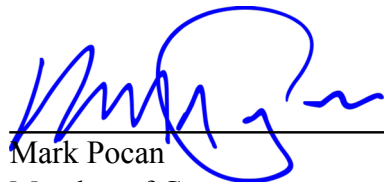
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Ed Case
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Darren Soto
Member of Congress



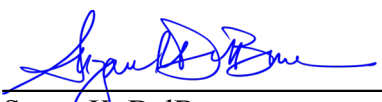
Mark Pocan
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Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



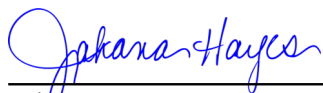
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



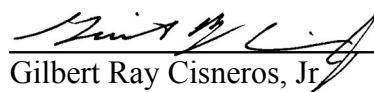
Suzan K. DelBene
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Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



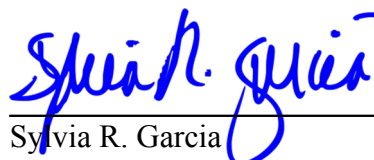
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



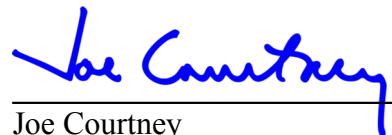
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



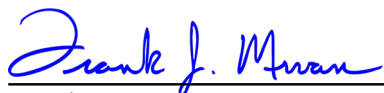
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



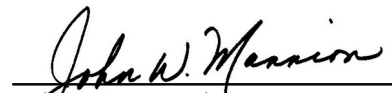
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



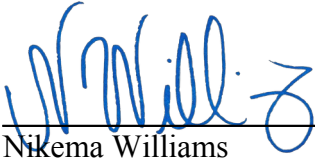
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



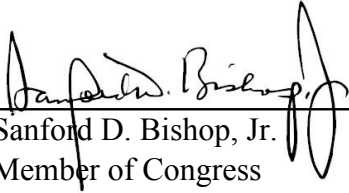
Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress