

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to thank you for your support of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As the past three Secretaries of Agriculture have attested, this program has made a critical difference in the lives of thousands of children and their communities around the world. We believe it is urgent to sustain and expand this program and to restore funding for the McGovern-Dole program to levels similar to those of the original pilot program. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to provide \$300 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program in your Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Proposal.

We recognize the difficult financial constraints that govern your decisions as you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. We believe increased funding to sustain and expand the McGovern-Dole program contributes to achieving U.S. priorities to increase food security and access to education among many of the world's most vulnerable children. It also plays a role in combating terrorism and building and consolidating democracy in the Middle East, southern Asia, the Near East and other regions critical to our national security.

As you well know, one of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Report stated that "a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism must include economic policies that encourage development, more open societies, and opportunities for people to improve the lives of their families and to enhance prospects for their children's future," a priority you echoed in your remarks before the United Nations General Assembly in September. The McGovern-Dole program has a proven track record at reducing the incidence of hunger among school-age children and improving literacy and primary education enrollment, especially among girls, in areas devastated by conflict, hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS, and the mistreatment and marginalization of girls. School meals, teacher training, and related support have helped boost school enrollment and academic performance. McGovern-Dole nutrition and school feeding programs improve the health and learning capacity of children both before they enter school and during the years of primary and elementary school.

With over 300 million children suffering from chronic hunger and over 120 million of them not attending school, reaching those who could benefit from the McGovern-Dole program requires a firm commitment to continued support and significant resources. At the same time, U.S. leadership and the success of the McGovern-Dole program have played an important role in encouraging other donor nations to provide new resources for school feeding programs, as well as promoting "best practices" among those organizations that carry out these programs in the

field. After just six short years, we are already witnessing how the success of the McGovern-Dole program has resulted in an increased commitment by local communities to school feeding and universal education, setting the stage for some country projects to “graduate” from the program and assume local administration of their school feeding programs.

For just a few cents a day, the McGovern-Dole program has made a critical difference in the lives of children and communities, promoted American values in the most positive terms, and helped achieve U.S. foreign policy and national security goals. The program’s flexibility and ability to be tailored to local needs ensure that American products, commodities, and financial and technical support are directly associated with hunger alleviation, educational opportunity, and sustainable development. Few programs deliver so much for such a minimal investment.

Once again, we thank you for your commitment to the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and we strongly urge that you restore the capacity of this critically important program by providing \$300 million for Fiscal Year 2009.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



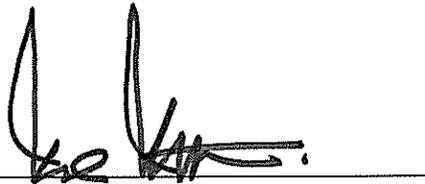
Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress



Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



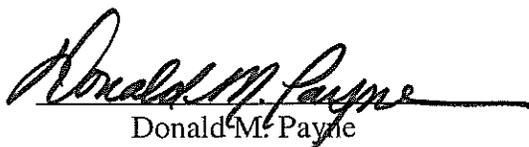
Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



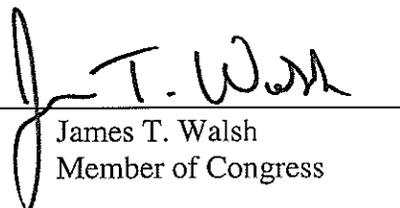
Ike Skelton
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



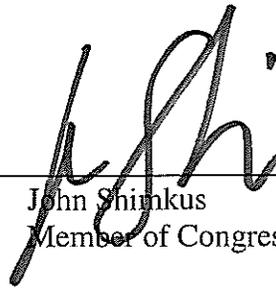
Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress



James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



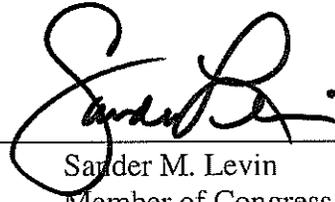
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



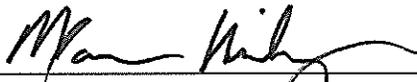
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



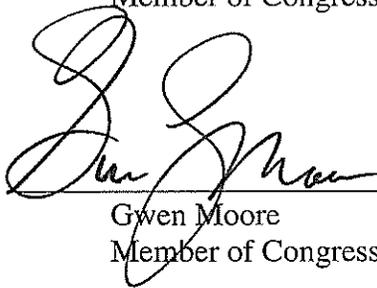
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



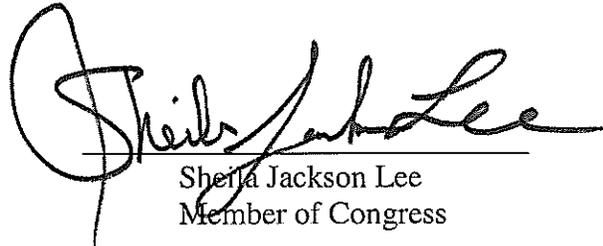
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



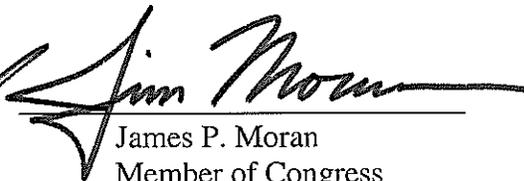
Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



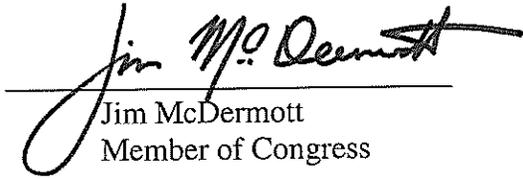
Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



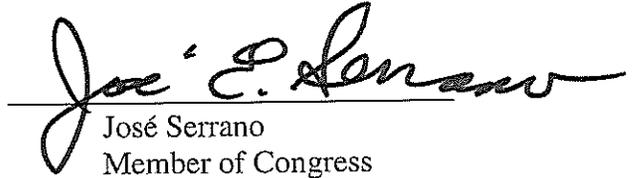
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



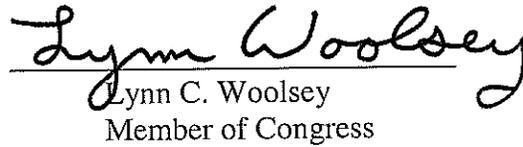
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



José Serrano
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



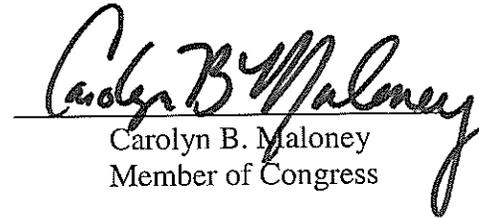
Bobby L. Rush
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William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



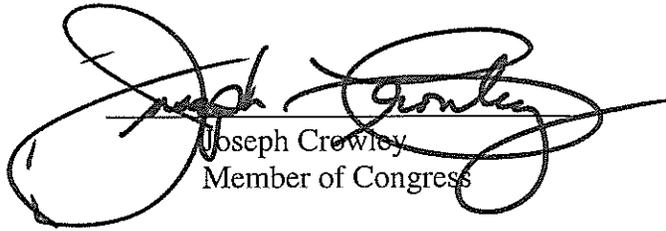
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



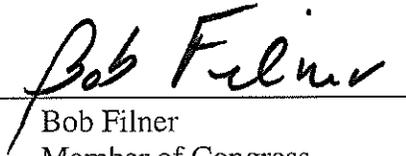
Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



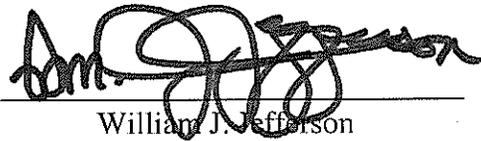
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



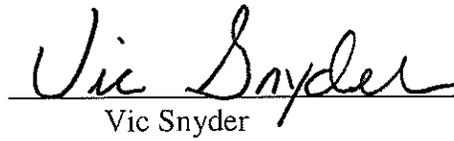
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



William J. Jefferson
Member of Congress



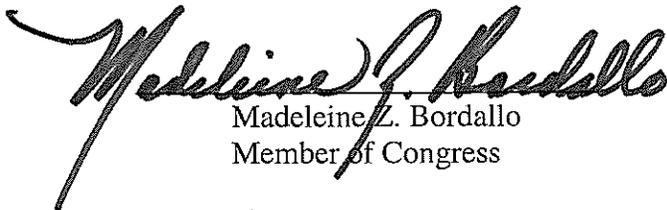
Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



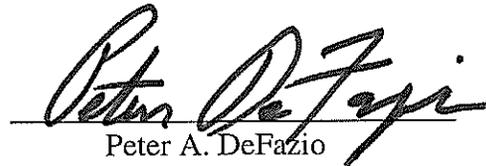
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



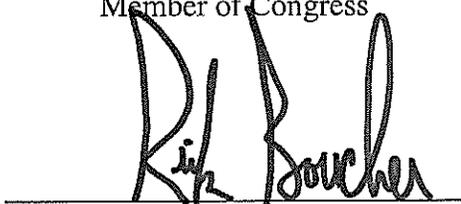
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



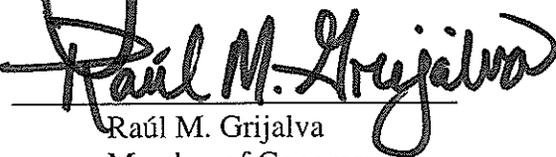
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Rick Boucher
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Gary L. Ackerman

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

Tim Holden

Tim Holden
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Tim J. Walz

Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Phil Hare

Phil Hare
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

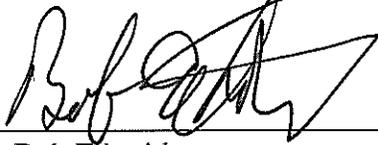
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Rubén Hinojosa

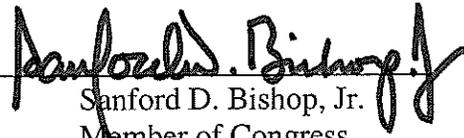
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



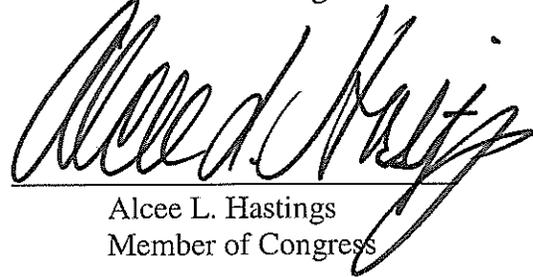
Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



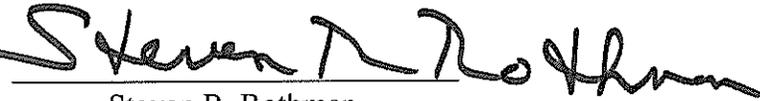
Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress



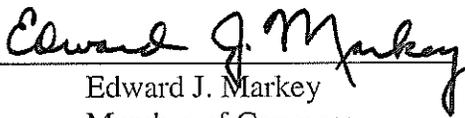
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



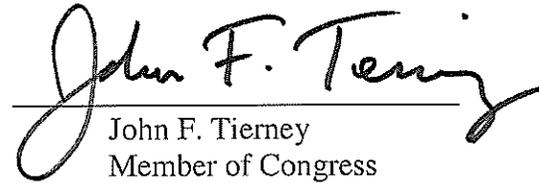
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



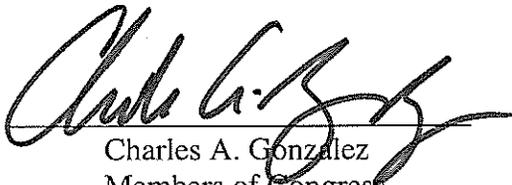
Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



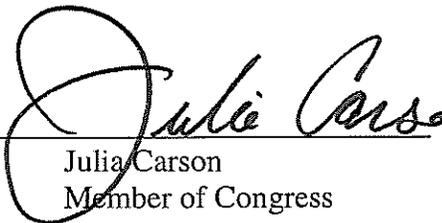
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez
Members of Congress



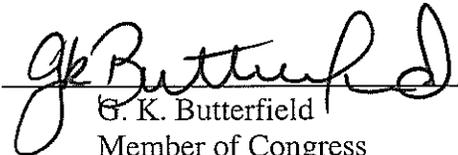
John W. Olver
Members of Congress



Julia Carson
Member of Congress



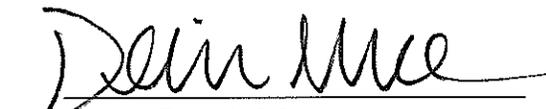
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

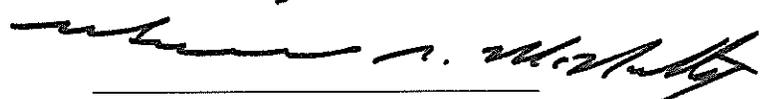


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Dennis Moore
Member of Congress


Marion Berry
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress


Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


John T. Salazar
Member of Congress


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

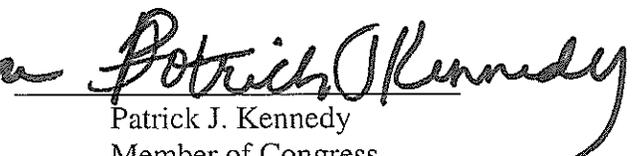

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


Mark Udall
Member of Congress


Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress


Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress


C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

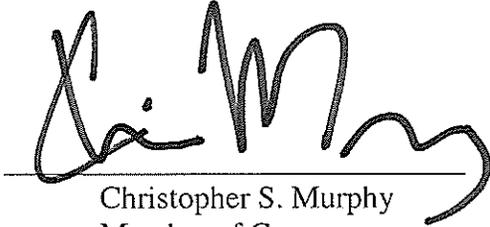

Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress



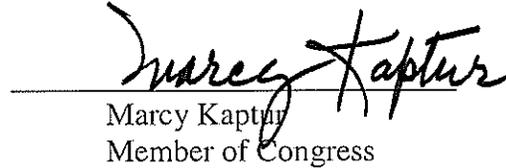
Phil English
Member of Congress



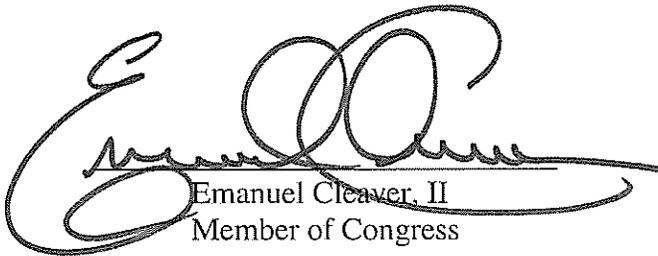
Tom Latham
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



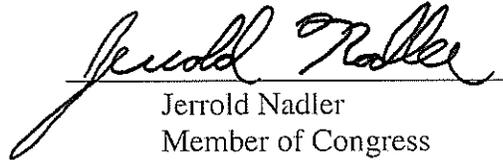
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Brad Miller
Member of Congress



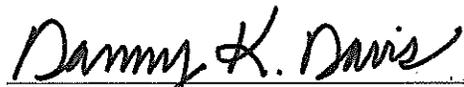
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Ron Klein
Member of Congress



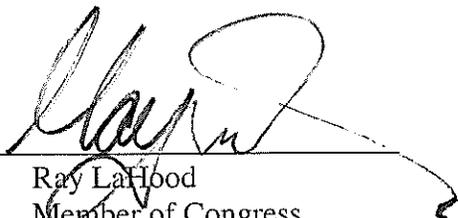
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress



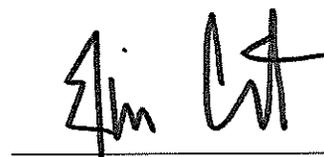
Ray LaHood
Member of Congress



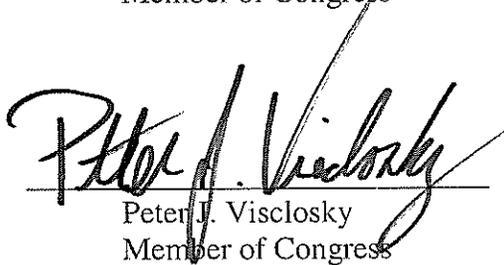
Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



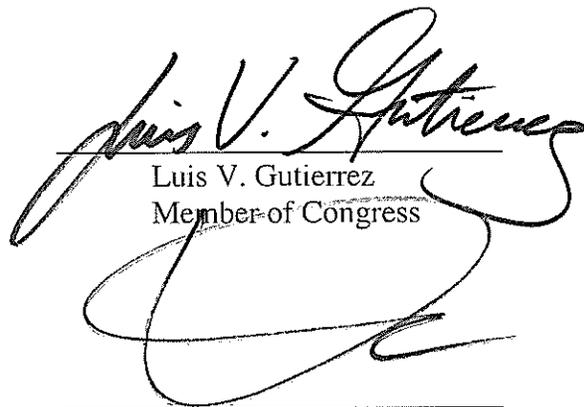
Paul W. Hodes
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

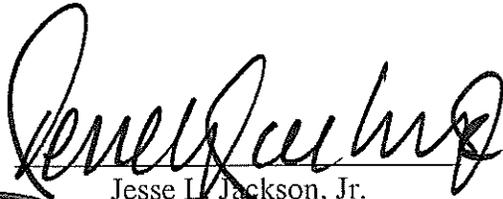


Joe Baca
Member of Congress

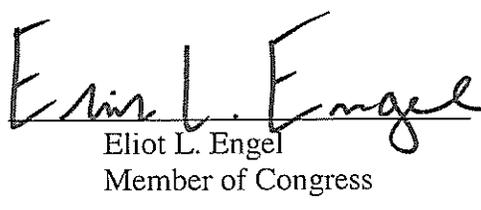
David Wu
Member of Congress



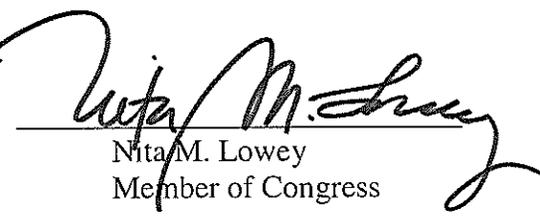
Patrick J. Murphy
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



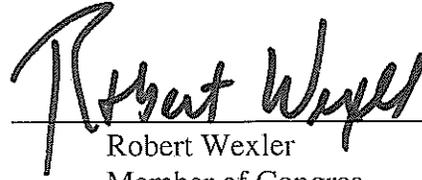
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



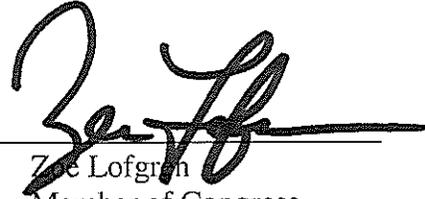
Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



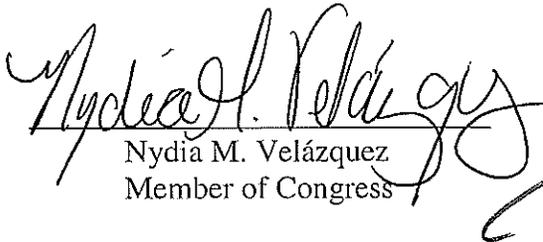
Ze Lofgren
Member of Congress



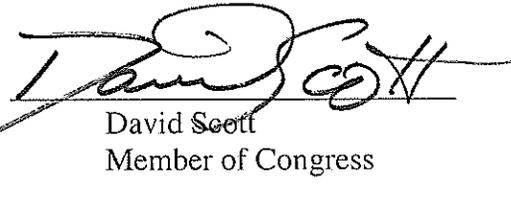
Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



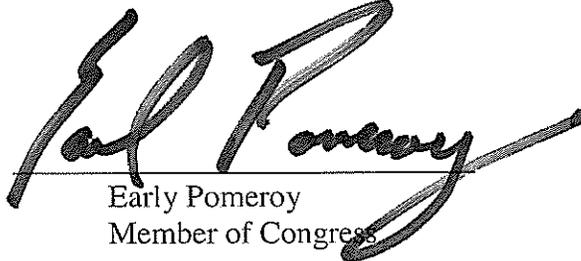
David Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



Steve Kagen
Member of Congress

Danny Waxman

George Milk

Key Sullivan

Bill Vasorel

Tom Myz

Richard. Watt

Bobby Smith

Bob Smith

Eliz Cummings

Aracyn C. Kephrek

Allyson J. Summers

Kathy Castro

Bruce Smith

Ed Falick

Stephanie Williams Vincent

Liane E. Watson Barry Frank

Alfred
M.A.G.

Dennis J. Kucinski

Miki Smyjs

Corwin

Robert E. A.

Paul Brady

David J. King

Stephen H. Lind

John

Ralph

J. P. Ph

Neil Abercrombie

Carolyn McCarty

Mike Cahall

Gene F. Neapolitano

Chris Vahle

Al H. Rhy

Arthur M

Bob Clark

James J. [unclear]

Butt [unclear]

James DeAngelis

[unclear] N409

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Margi Howard

Loretta Sanchez

Earl Blumenthal

Shelley Blakey

Jane Hanna

Lucille Regal-Allard

Angie Byle

Dee Hays

John Lyons

Signatories on Page 12:

Henry A. Waxman
George Miller
Henry Cuellar
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Tim Ryan
Melvin L. Watt
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Adam Smith
Elijah E. Cummings
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick
Allyson Y. Schwartz
Kathy Castor
Bruce L. Braley
Ed Perlmutter

Signatories on Page 13:

Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Dennis A. Cardoza
Diane E. Watson
Barney Frank
Stephen F. Lynch
Dennis J. Kucinich
Niki Tsongas
Corrine Brown
Robert E. Andrews
Robert A. Brady (PA)
Linda T. Sánchez (CA-39)
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
John B. Larson (CT)
Rahm Emanuel

Signatories on Page 14:

John P. Sarbanes
Neil Abercrombie
Carolyn McCarthy
Nick J. Rahall, II
Grace F. Napolitano
Chris Van Hollen
Albert Russell Wynn
Artur Davis
Russ Carnahan
Jerry F. Costello
Brian Higgins
James R. Langevin
Anthony D. Weiner
Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Signatories on Page 15:

Mazie K. Hirono
Loretta Sanchez (CA-47)
Earl Blumenauer
Shelley Berkley
Jane Harman
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Nancy E. Boyda
Doc Hastings
John Conyers, Jr.

cc: Jim Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Chuck Conner, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Condoleezza Rice, Secretary, U.S. Department of State

- The Honorable Julia Carson signed the letter on December 12, 2007 (page 7); she passed away on December 16th.