

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

February 17, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

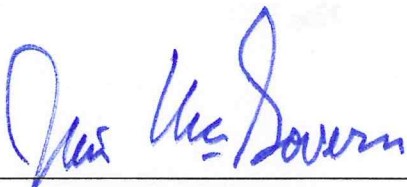
We write to express our support for the Administration's announcement on February 1<sup>st</sup> that the United States will complete combat operations in Afghanistan by the end of next year.

From information reported in the media, the U.S. intends to transition from major combat operations in Afghanistan to a "training, advice and assist role" by the middle-to-latter part of 2013. We applaud this announcement by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to accelerate the transition away from combat operations, and it provides assurance that the timeframe outlined in your 2009 West Point and 2010 NATO speeches will be carried out. As you know, many of us support an even more rapid withdrawal of all our troops from Afghanistan.

The majority of Americans want a safe and orderly military withdrawal from Afghanistan as quickly as possible, as recent public opinion polls indicate. The desire by the American people for an accelerated transition in Afghanistan was reflected in votes taken in Congress last year, in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate during their respective debates on amendments offered by Representatives McGovern and Jones and by Senator Merkley to the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. These votes show there is strong bipartisan political support to take bold steps regarding U.S. policy in Afghanistan.

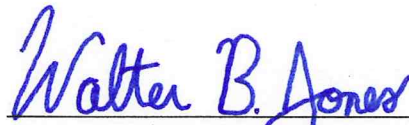
The past 10 years have cost America dearly in the blood and sacrifice of our military servicemen and women and their families, and in our nation's fiscal health and security. The United States intervened in Afghanistan to destroy al Qaeda's safe haven, remove the Taliban government that sheltered al Qaeda, and pursue those who planned the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the United States; those objectives have largely been met and no longer require a large presence of combat troops in Afghanistan. While questions remain about the details of the announced transition – when and how quickly U.S. troops will be coming home, the number and purpose of troops that might remain in Afghanistan and for how long a period, the costs and the savings of accelerating the completion of combat operations – the February 1<sup>st</sup> announcement clearly signals that now is the moment to initiate the transition, end the war in Afghanistan and bring our troops home.

Sincerely,



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

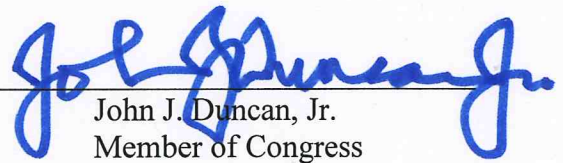


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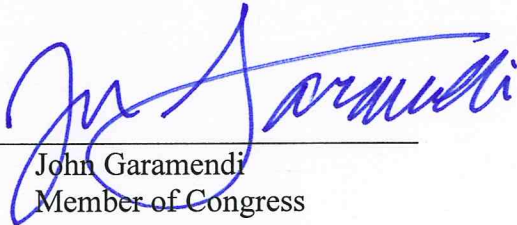
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



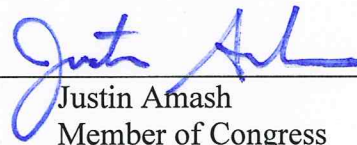
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



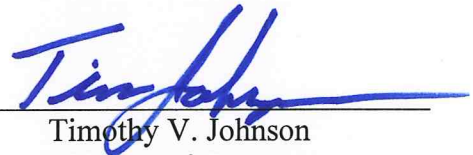
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



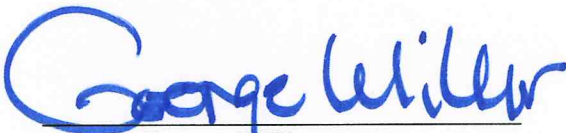
Justin Amash  
Member of Congress



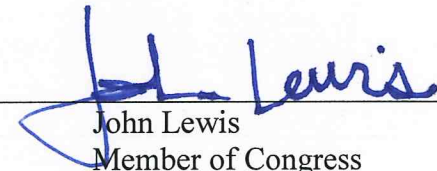
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



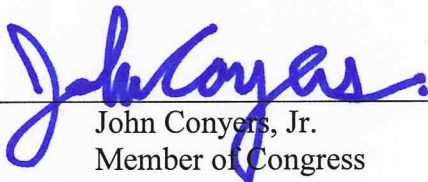
Timothy V. Johnson  
Member of Congress




George Miller  
Member of Congress



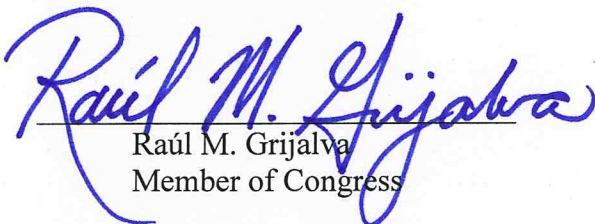
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



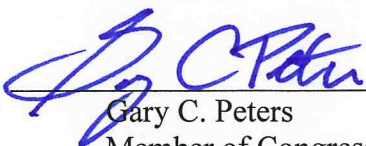
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



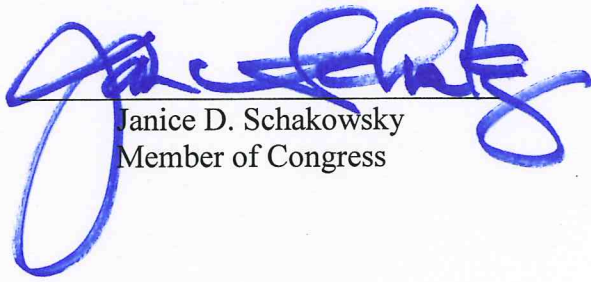
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress




Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress



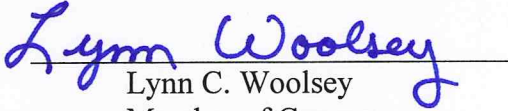
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



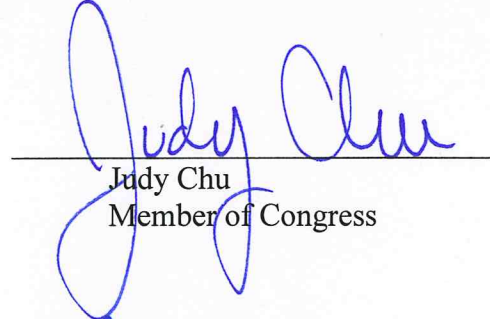
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



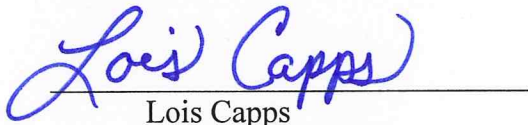
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



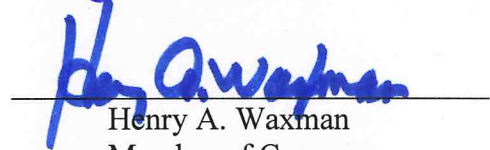
Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



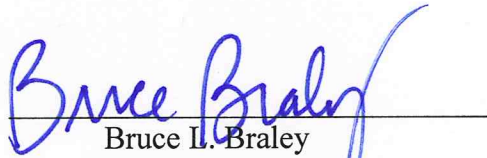
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



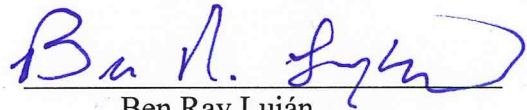
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



Bruce L. Braley  
Member of Congress



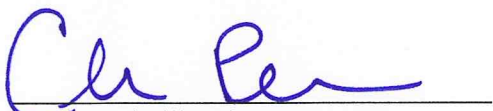
Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



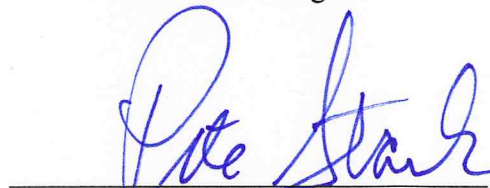
Martin Heinrich  
Member of Congress



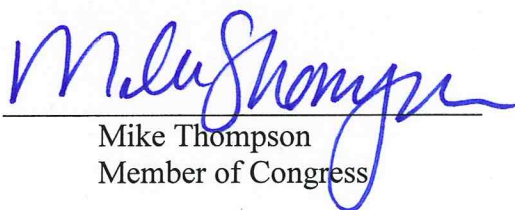
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress




Fortney "Pete" Stark  
Member of Congress




Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

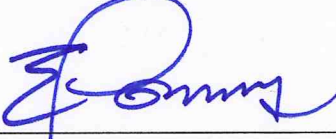


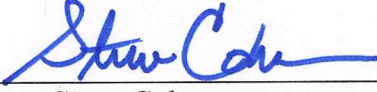
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

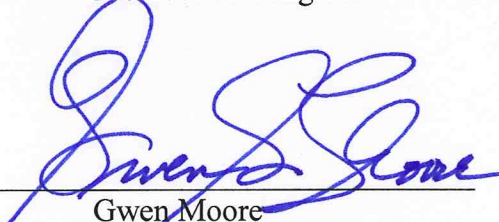
  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

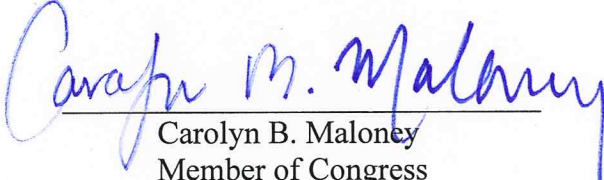
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

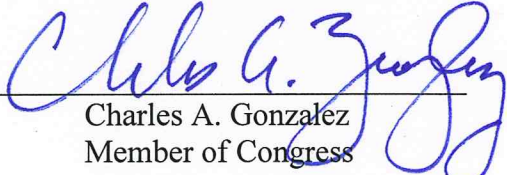
  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

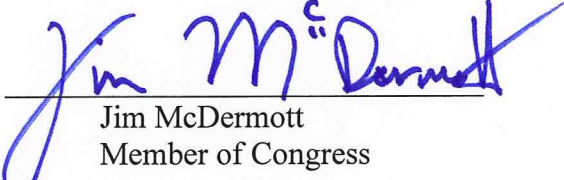
  
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress


  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress


  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

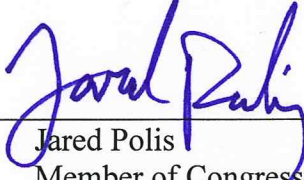
  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

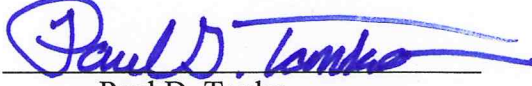
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

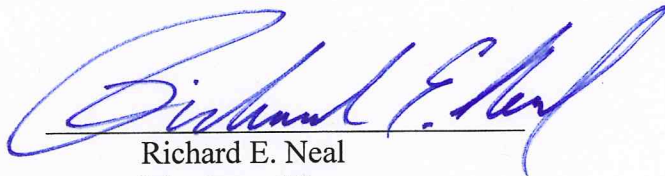
  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

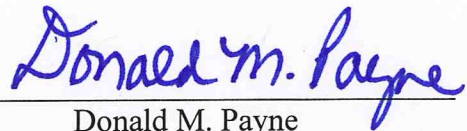
  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

  
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



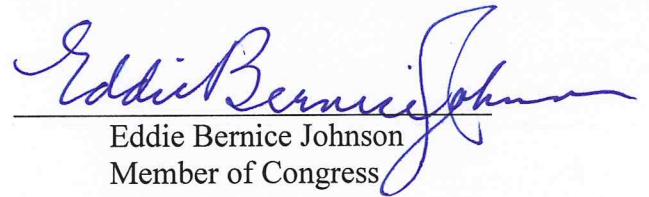
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



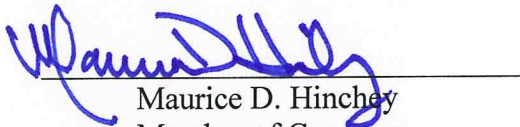
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress



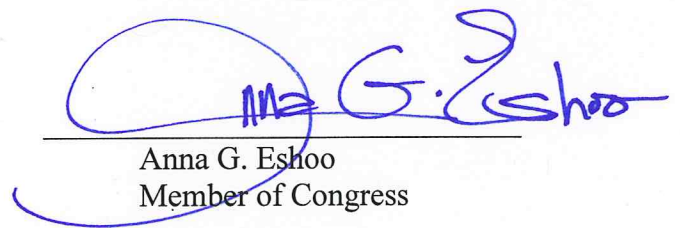
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



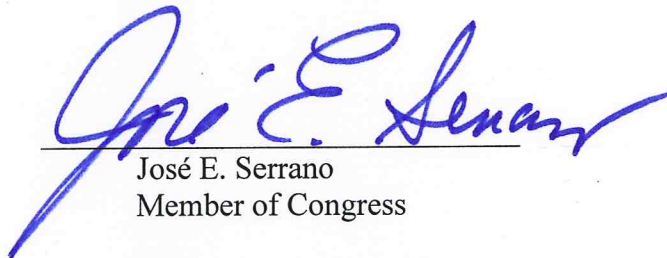
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



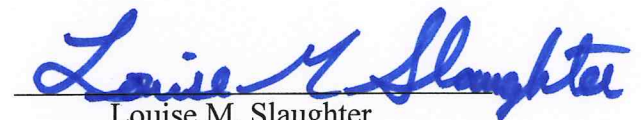
Maurice D. Hinchey  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



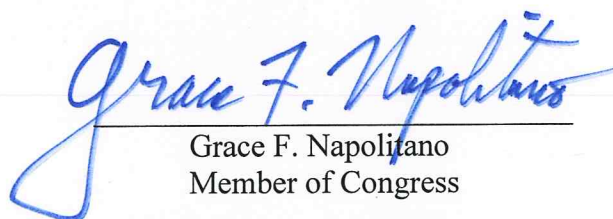
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



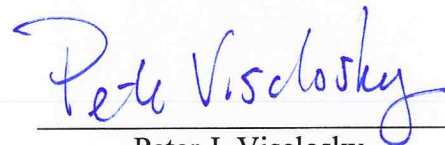
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



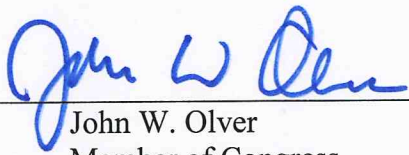
Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



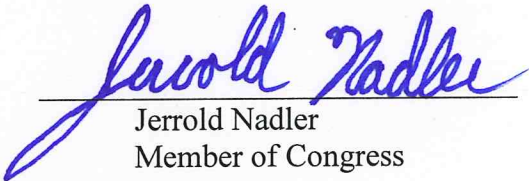
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



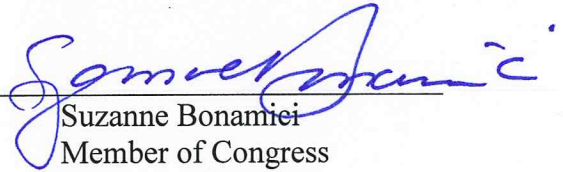
John W. Olver  
Member of Congress



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



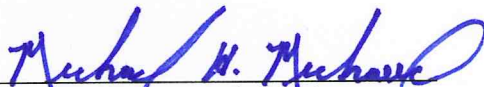
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



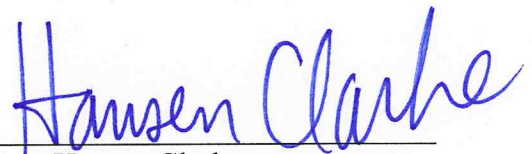
Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress



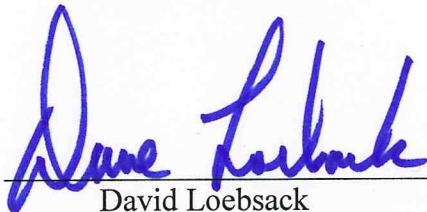
Hansen Clarke  
Member of Congress



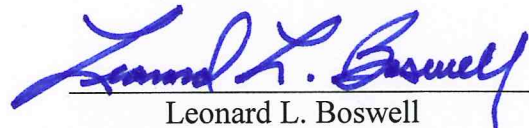
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



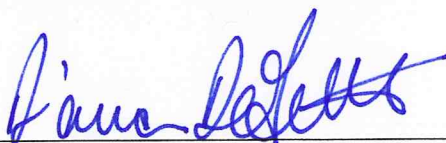
Mazie K. Hirono  
Member of Congress



David Loebsack  
Member of Congress



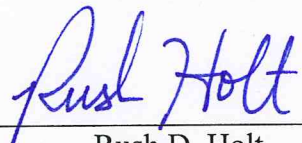
Leonard L. Boswell  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



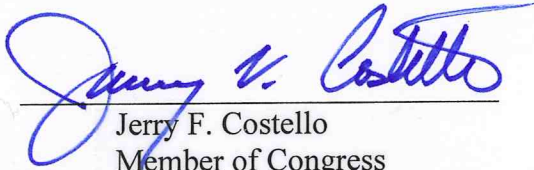
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



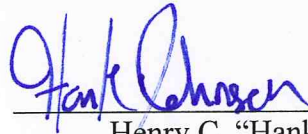
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress



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



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



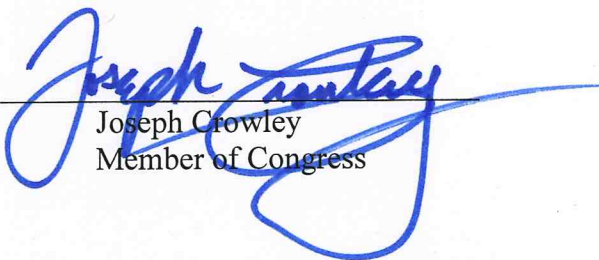
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



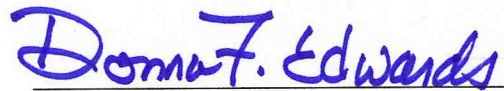
Brad Miller  
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

Bayless

Human Cable

Ed Whotps

Dana Robinson

of Ann Emerson

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Signatures on Page 8:

Roscoe G. Bartlett (MD)

Howard Coble (NC)

Ed Whitfield (KY)

Dana Rohrabacher (CA)

Jo Ann Emerson (MO)