

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

As we enter the latter half of 2012, many issues require Congressional action. However, no issue is more important than addressing the threat that sequestration poses to our national security. Sequestration will result in nearly 1.5 million jobs lost to our defense industry and reduce our nation's military to the smallest fighting force since before World War II.

Under the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25), the Department of Defense (DoD) provided \$487 billion of its existing budget to deficit reduction. In addition, since the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction failed to find \$1.2 to 1.5 trillion in budget cuts over 10 years, an across the board sequestration is set to go into effect January 2013. For the DoD, sequestration means an additional reduction of \$492 billion over the next 10 years. In sum, according to a study by the Bipartisan Policy Center, the \$1 trillion in cuts the DoD is slated to absorb, "will result in an indiscriminate 15 percent cut at the program, project, and activity level in the defense budget."¹ This will have a devastating impact on the men and women who protect our nation and the companies that provide them with cutting edge technology to help them to safely accomplish their missions.

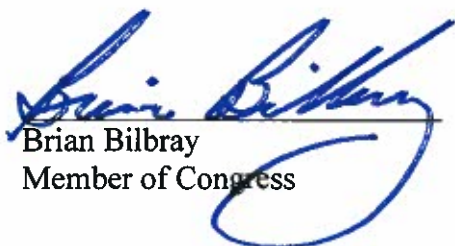
In statements and testimony made by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta concerning sequestration, the Secretary has underscored the severity of such cuts. Sequestration, he says, "would have a devastating effect on not only national defense but I think on the rest of the country. It's totally unacceptable, and frankly our political leaders cannot allow it to happen."¹ He has also likened the sequestration trigger to "shooting ourselves in the head."² In order to provide for our nation's common defense, we *must* avert sequestration. Furthermore, every day we delay implementing a solution negatively impacts the ability of the DoD to plan and implement procurement and operation strategies.

¹ Department of Defense News Briefing with Secretary Panetta and Adm. Mullen August 04, 2011

² Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing to Receive Testimony on the U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq, September 22, 2011

The effects of sequestration will not only deal a major blow to our nation's military readiness but will also devastate our economy. On May 10, 2012, the House passed H.R. 5652, the *Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012*, which would replace the first year of defense sequestration with strategic commonsense spending reductions. This bill represents a good faith effort to identify solutions to reduce our deficit while funding our defense priorities. To that end, we simply request that you schedule an immediate vote on this valuable solution or produce a Senate legislative strategy so that we may work together to stave off this unacceptable cut to our national security.

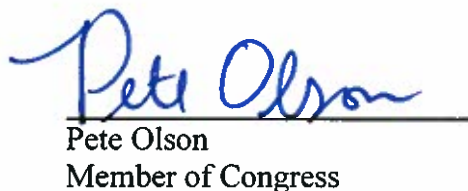
Sincerely,



Brian Bilbray
Member of Congress



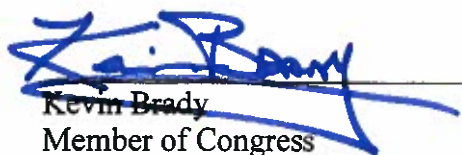
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Pete Olson
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Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



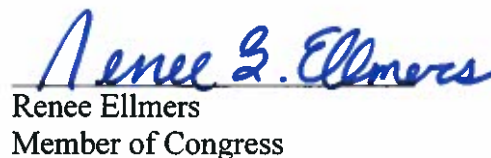
Kevin Brady
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Lamar Smith
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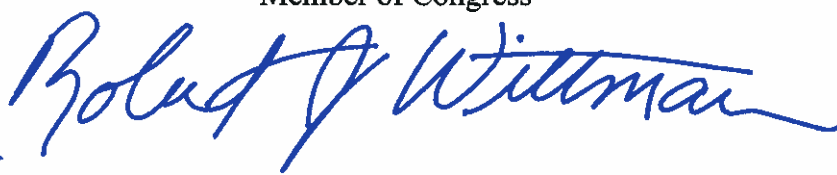
Lynn Westmoreland
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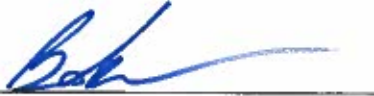
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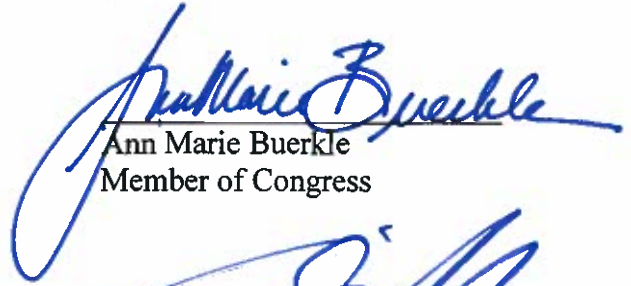
C.W. Bill Young
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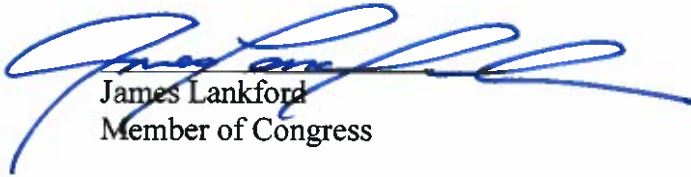
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



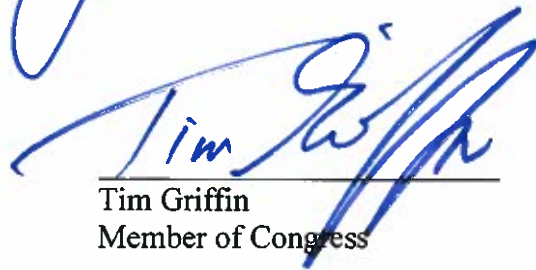
Chip Cravaak
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Ann Marie Buerkle
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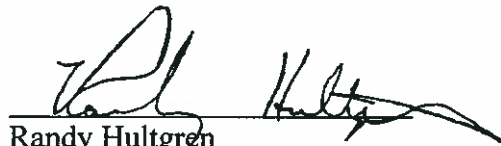
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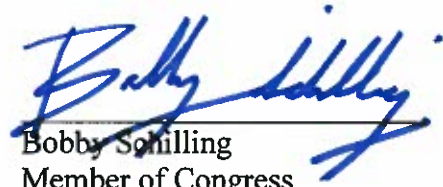
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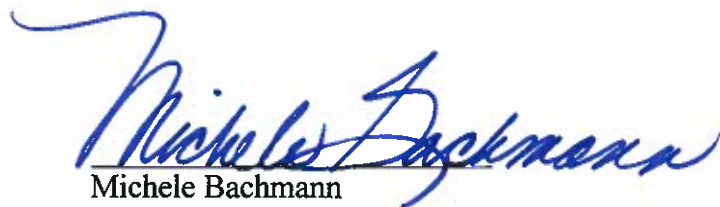
Lynn Jenkins
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Ralph Hall
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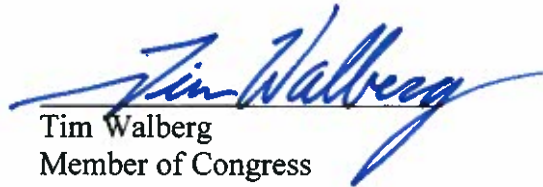
Joe Wilson
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Michele Bachmann
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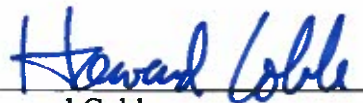
Mike Rogers (AL-03)
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Tim Walberg
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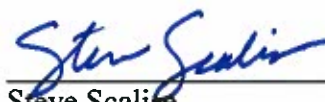
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Howard Coble
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Trent Franks
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Steve Scalise
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Jean Schmidt
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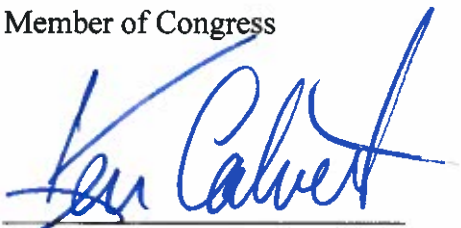
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