

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500


Dear President Obama:

Earlier this month you visited Afghanistan to sign a Strategic Partnership Agreement. As you stated at Bagram Air Base, "this time of war began in Afghanistan, and this is where it will end." The core of al Qaeda has been greatly reduced in size and ability to attack Americans. Our brave men and women in uniform have done everything that we have asked of them. With over 17,000 dead and wounded U.S. servicemen and women, and long term costs estimated at \$4 trillion for the past decade of unfunded wars, the overwhelming majority of American people want to bring the war in Afghanistan to an expedited end.


While many of us would prefer an immediate full withdrawal from Afghanistan, there is broad, bipartisan consensus in Congress and across America that it is time to accelerate the transition from U.S. to full Afghan control. We also remind you that any agreement committing U.S. troops to Afghanistan must have congressional approval to be binding.

Therefore, at the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago, we ask that you announce an accelerated transition of security responsibility to the Afghan government and security forces and the expedited withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan as quickly as these can be safely and responsibly accomplished.


Sincerely,


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress


WALTER JONES
Member of Congress


TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress


KAREN BASS
Member of Congress


XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress


EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

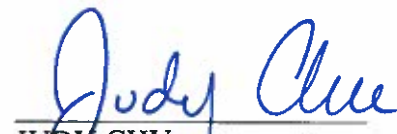

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Member of Congress


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MICHAEL CAPUANO
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Member of Congress

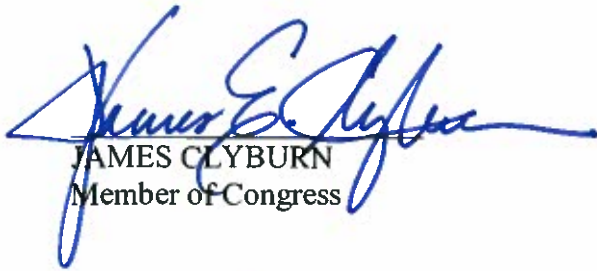

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JERRY COSTELLO
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DONNA EDWARDS
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KEITH ELLISON
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SAM FARR
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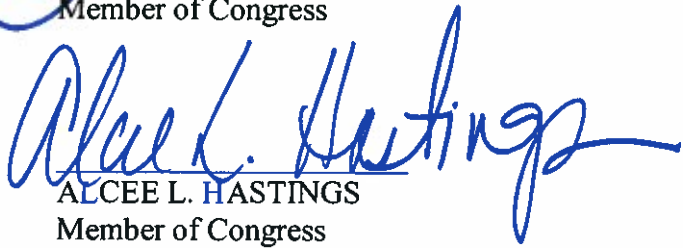
JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

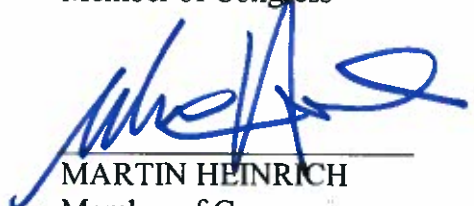

RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

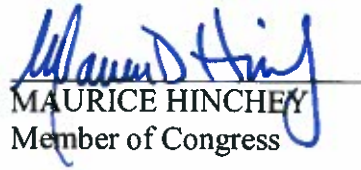

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DENNIS KUCINICH
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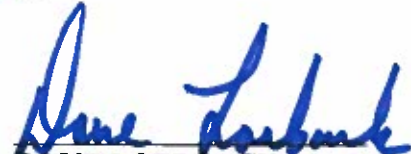
RICK LARSEN
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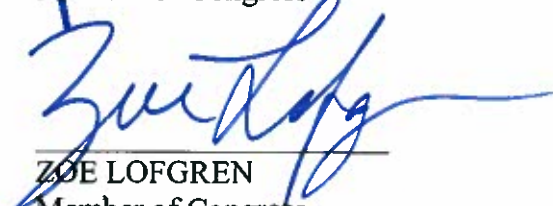
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BEN RAY LUJAN
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ED MARKEY
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BETTY MCCOLLUM
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JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



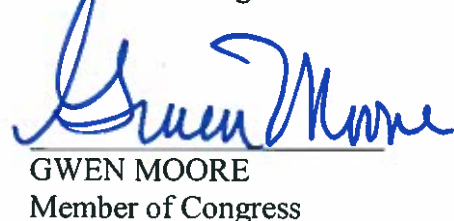
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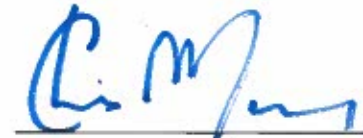



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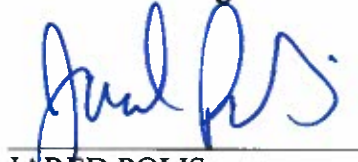

GRACE NAPOLITANO
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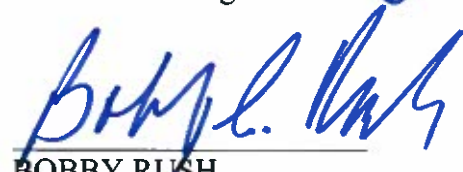

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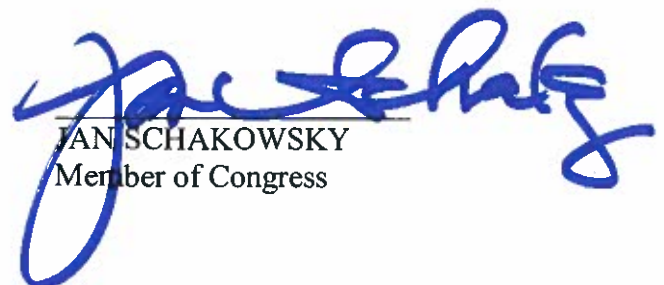

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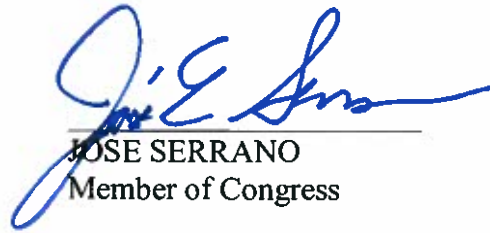

BOBBY RUSH
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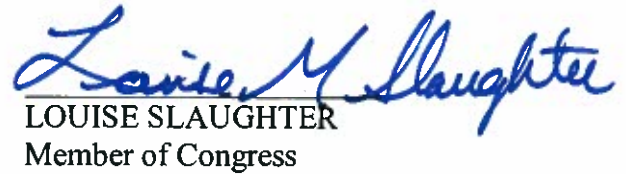
ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress



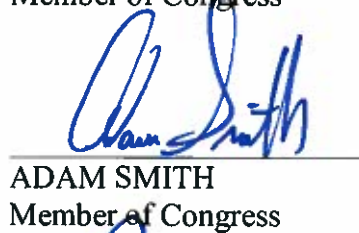
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BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



LOUISE SLAUGHTER
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ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



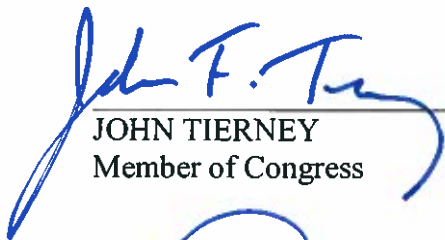
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EDOLPHUS TOWNS
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Member of Congress



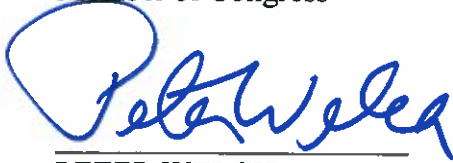
MAXINE WATERS
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MEL WATT
Member of Congress



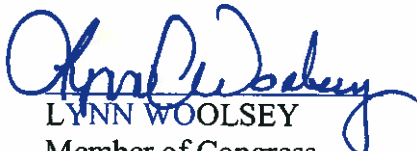
HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress



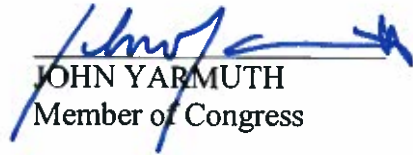
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



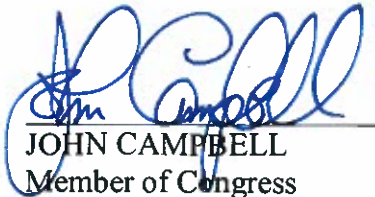
FREDERICA WILSON
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LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress



JOHN CAMPBELL
Member of Congress



ELIJAH CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



MAZIE HIRONO
Member of Congress



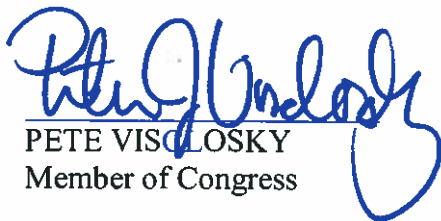
MIKE QUIGLEY
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LUCILLE ROYBAL ALLARD
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



PETE VISCLOSKY
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES
Member of Congress



JOHN SARBANES
Member of Congress

Signers of the May 16, 2012 letter to President Obama regarding Afghanistan

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2. Bass
3. Becerra
4. Blumenauer
5. Boswell
6. Braley
7. Campbell
8. Capps
9. Capuano
10. Castor
11. Chu
12. Cicilline
13. Clarke, Yvette
14. Clay
15. Cleaver
16. Clyburn
17. Cohen
18. Conyers
19. Costello
20. Courtney
21. Cummings
22. Dafazio
23. DeLauro
24. Duncan, John
25. Edwards
26. Ellison
27. Eschoo
28. Farr
29. Filner
30. Frank
31. Garamendi
32. Grijalva
33. Gutierrez
34. Hahn
35. Hanabusa
36. Hastings, Alcee
37. Heinrich
38. Hinchey
39. Hirono
40. Holt
41. Honda
42. Jackson, Jr.
43. Johnson, Eddie B.
44. Johnson, Hank
45. Johnson, Tim
46. Kucinich
47. Langevin
48. Larsen
49. Larson
50. Lewis
51. Loebsack
52. Lofgren
53. Lujan
54. Maloney
55. Markey
56. McCollum
57. McDermott
58. McGovern
59. Michaud
60. Miller, George
61. Moore
62. Moran
63. Murphy, Chris
64. Nadler
65. Napolitano
66. Olver
67. Pastor
68. Paul
69. Pingree
70. Polis
71. Quigley
72. Rangel
73. Reyes
74. Richardson
75. Roybal-Allard
76. Rush
77. Sanchez, Loretta
78. Sarbanes
79. Schakowsky
80. Schiff
81. Serrano
82. Sherman
83. Sires
84. Slaughter
85. Smith, Adam
86. Speier
87. Stark
88. Thompson, Mike
89. Tierney
90. Tonko
91. Towns
92. Tsongas
93. Valezquez
94. Visclosky
95. Waters
96. Watt
97. Waxman
98. Welch
99. Wilson
100. Woolsey
101. Yarmuth