

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2012

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

As Members of Congress who value the sustainable use of our natural resources, we are writing to urge the U.S. Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp to support the operations and maintenance of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Semipostal Authorization Act (39 USCS § 416) gives the Postmaster General authority to issue semipostal stamps, which are then sold at a premium to help fund a specific cause of national interest.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's premier network of protected areas devoted to fish and wildlife conservation. Wildlife Refuges are located in every state and U.S. territory, and each year over 44 million people visit the Refuge System. These visits generate over \$1.7 billion in sales for businesses in local communities, support nearly 27,000 jobs, and contribute over \$185 million in tax revenues.

Yet years of chronic underfunding threaten the viability of the Refuge System and the ability of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fully protect the natural resources within. Today the System faces an operations and maintenance backlog of over \$3 billion, resulting in severe shortages of law enforcement and visitor service staff, inadequate monitoring of resources, and a deterioration of Refuge facilities.

A Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp would provide an additional revenue stream for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address this funding backlog. The semipostal stamp could be expected to have broad consumer appeal, as it would support local tourism and outdoor recreation economies, as well as preserve the health of the environment.

Now, in times of budget constraint, Americans are looking for ways to revitalize the wildlife refuges in their backyards without increasing taxes or taking funds from other important government services. Consistent with this public interest, we request that the U.S. Postal Service quickly act to issue a semipostal stamp to support the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Sincerely,



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Oceans, Wildlife
and Insular Affairs



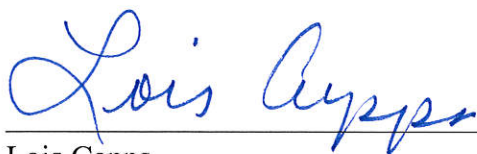
Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources



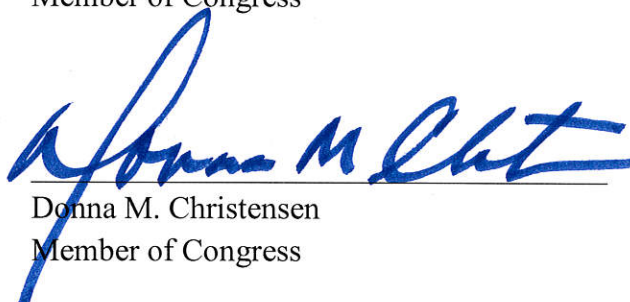
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Dan Boren
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



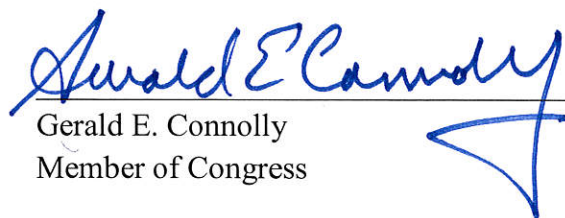
Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



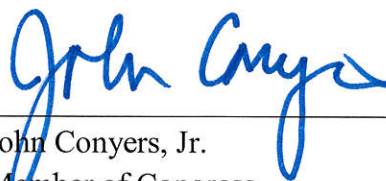
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress




John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



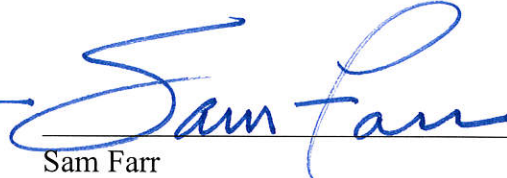
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress




Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



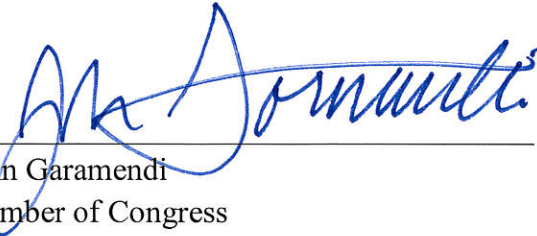
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



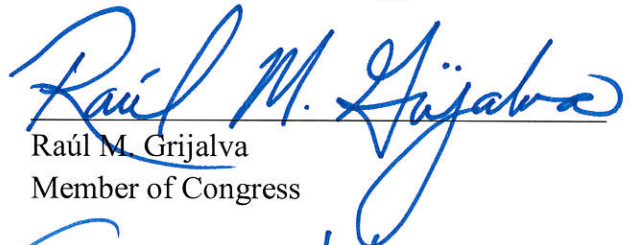
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



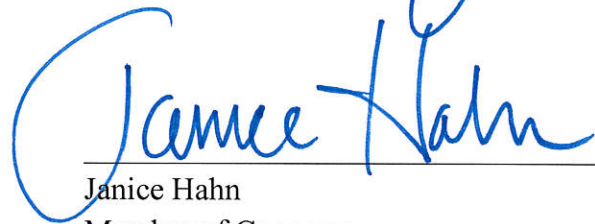
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



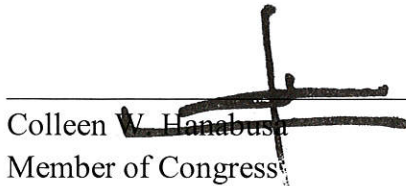
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



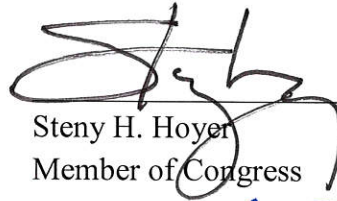
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress



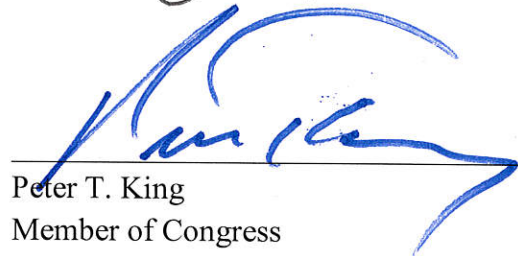
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



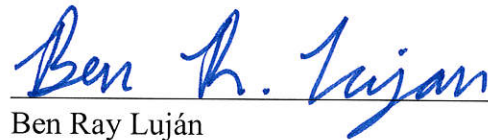
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



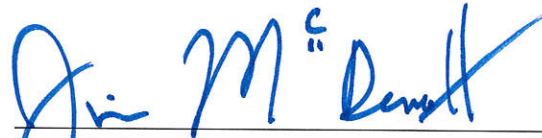
Larry Kissell
Member of Congress



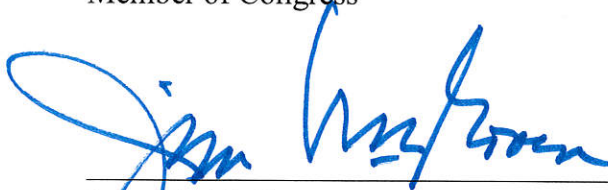
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



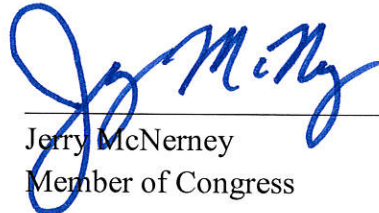
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



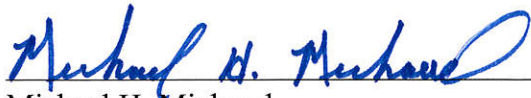
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



George Miller
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



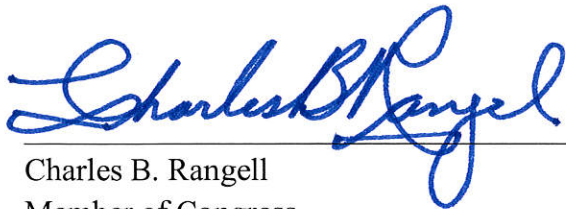
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



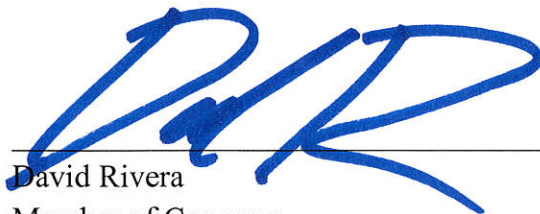
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



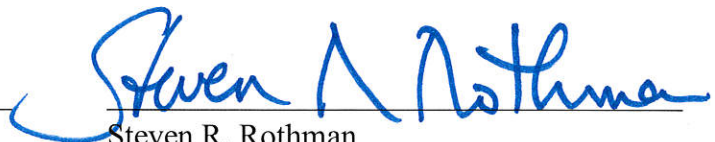
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



David Rivera
Member of Congress



Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress




Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress