

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President,

We write to support the Administration's efforts to achieve a lasting end to the violence and terror perpetrated by Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), under the command of Joseph Kony. We commend the U.S. comprehensive strategy, required by Congress, that not only promotes the apprehension of Kony and other senior LRA commanders, but also the protection of civilians, the defection and reintegration of LRA abductees, and humanitarian relief to LRA-affected communities.

What is sorely lacking, however, is robust regional coordination. To alter this dynamic, **we urge you to work with the African Union and the United Nations to convene a meeting with the heads of state of LRA-affected countries at the upcoming U.N. General Assembly.** With your participation and that of Secretary of State Clinton, such a meeting could play a catalytic role in defusing tensions between these governments and encouraging them to dedicate sufficient resources and troops to protect civilians and apprehend senior LRA commanders.

As you well know, the LRA is a vicious group that has wreaked great human suffering across central and east Africa for over 20 years. It has been responsible for numerous atrocities, including massacres, mass abductions, torture, rape, pillage and forced labor. The people of LRA affected regions have suffered for far too long and are waiting for strong, effective action to end the atrocities committed by the LRA.

The decision to deploy U.S. military personnel to central and east Africa in October 2011 to act as advisors in support of regional military efforts was a positive step, and a demonstration of U.S. commitment to robustly implement the LRA comprehensive strategy. We have been encouraged by the efforts they have made so far, and by the decision in April 2012 to extend their deployment.

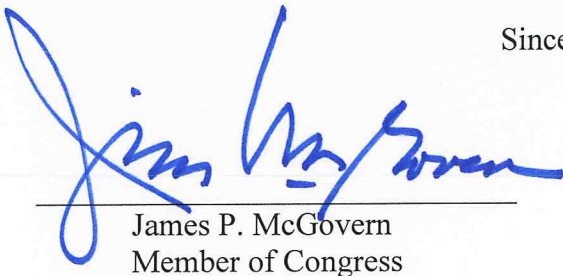
However, we remain concerned that lack of cross-border cooperation between the countries affected by the LRA is jeopardizing the ability of the U.S. advisers to achieve their mission. As you know, the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to deny the Ugandan military, the primary partner of the U.S. advisers, access to Congolese territory where LRA violence is most acute. Allegations that Joseph Kony has crossed from the Central African Republic to South Darfur remain unsubstantiated, but contribute to escalating tension between Sudan and South Sudan and, if true, could further hamstring cross-border efforts to apprehend the LRA senior leadership and protect civilians.

Senior State Department officials have testified before Congress several times since October 2011 that the Administration is engaging with regional governments to address these issues and ensure U.S. advisers are given a chance to succeed. However, the lack of adequate progress on improving collaboration between regional governments affected by the LRA during the last eight months highlights the need for more robust diplomatic engagement by your Administration. The coming months will be a critical period for the work of the U.S. military advisers deployed in LRA-affected areas , and we urge you and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to personally engage with the heads of state of regional governments affected by the LRA to ensure improved commitment and cross-border collaboration on counter-LRA initiatives.

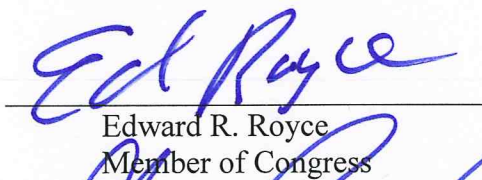
In addition to the reasons stated above, convening a side meeting in New York City during the upcoming U.N. General Assembly with the heads of state of LRA-affected countries would also provide an opportunity to encourage other partner and donor countries to provide both financial and operational resources to support the implementation of the joint U.N. and African Union regional strategy to address the LRA.

Please let us reiterate our support for America's efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army. Continued U.S. leadership will be crucial in ensuring that the comprehensive strategy to support the disarmament of the Lord's Resistance Army is fully implemented so that the regions affected by the LRA's brutality can advance the path to rebuilding lives and communities.

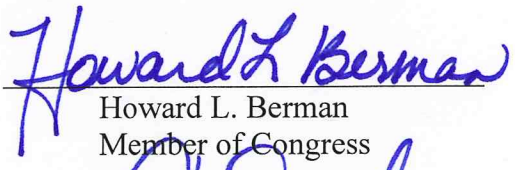
Sincerely,



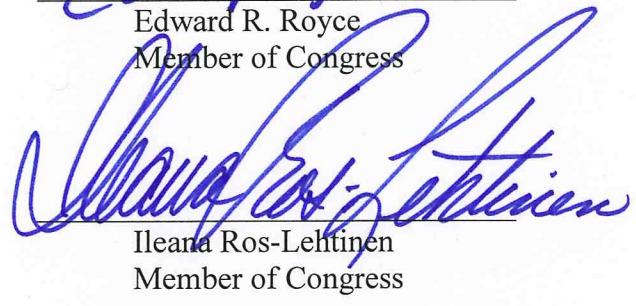
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



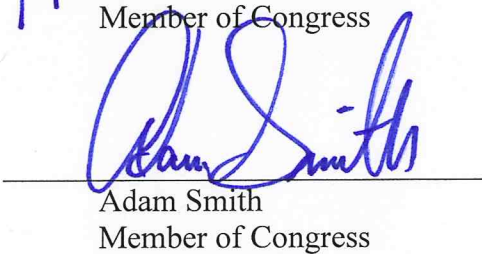
Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress



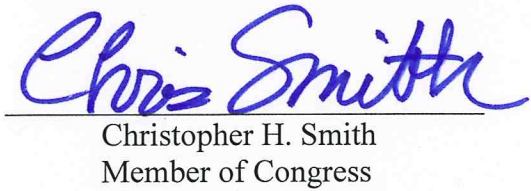
Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



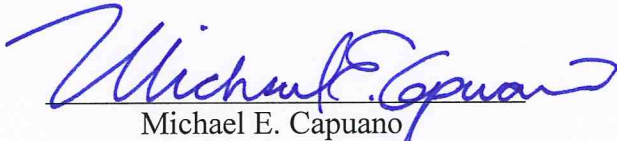
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress





Adam Smith
Member of Congress

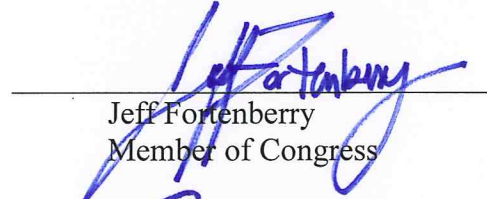


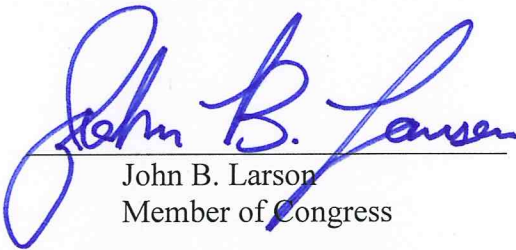
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

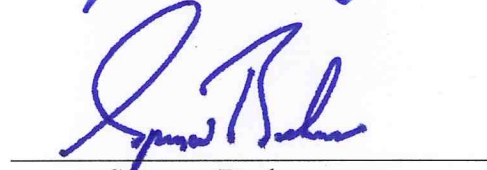

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

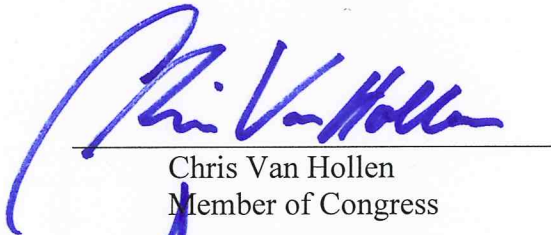

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

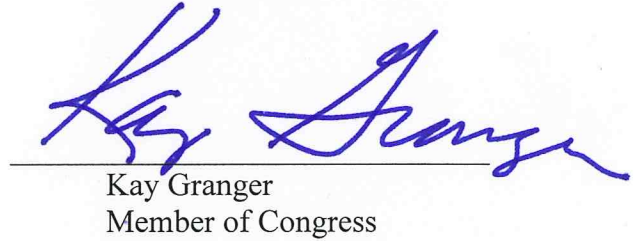

Brad Miller
Member of Congress

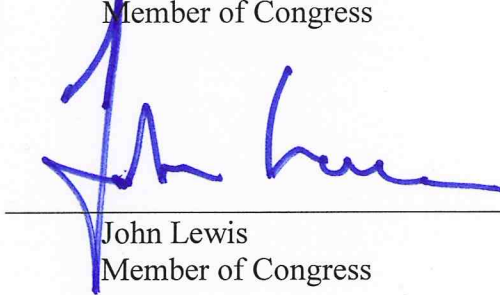

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

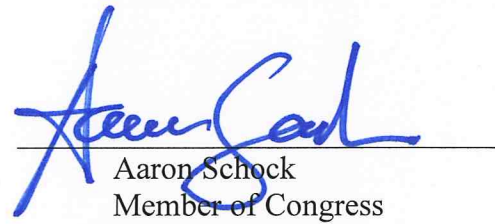

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

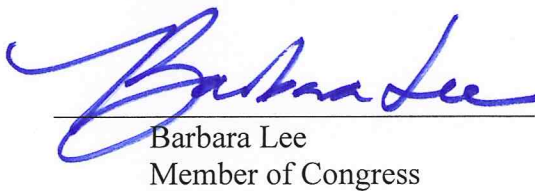

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

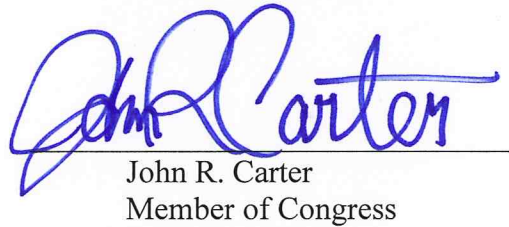

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Kay Granger
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress

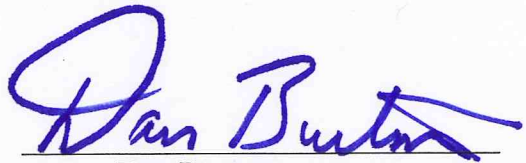

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

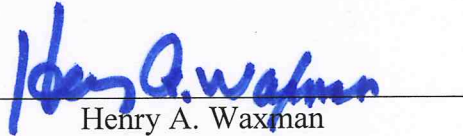

John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



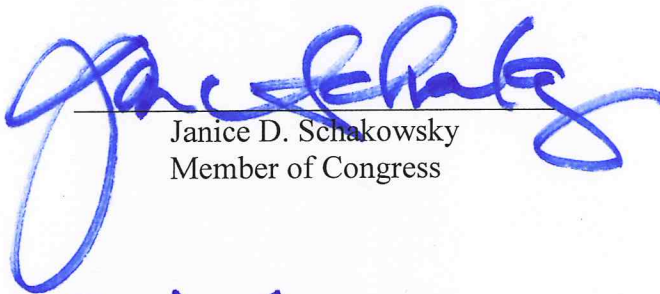
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



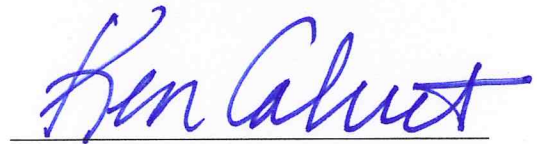
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



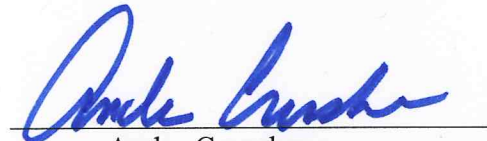
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



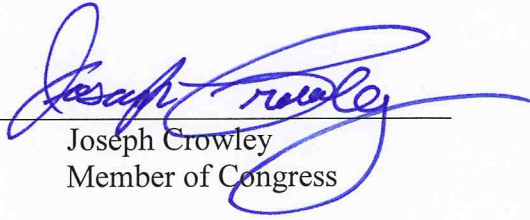
Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress




Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



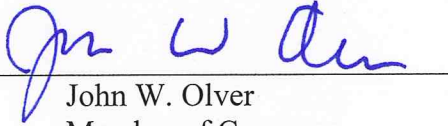
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress




Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



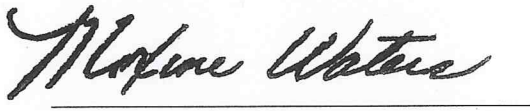
Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



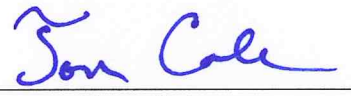
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



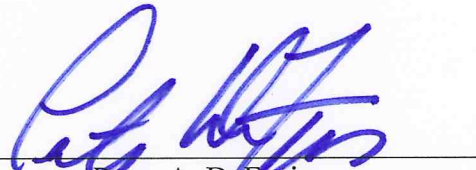
David Rivera
Member of Congress



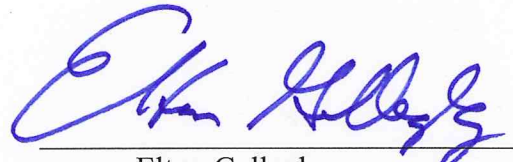
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



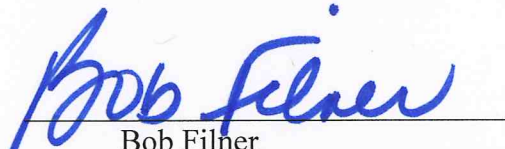
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



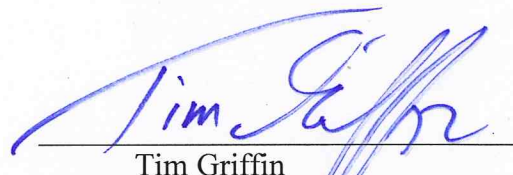
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress




Bob Filner
Member of Congress



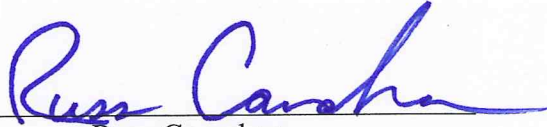
Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



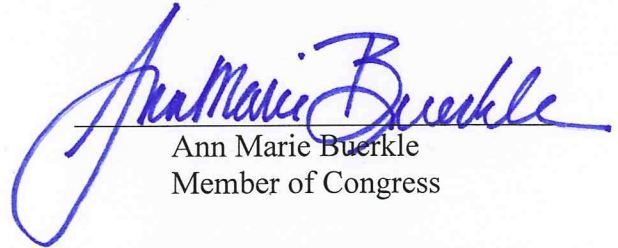
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



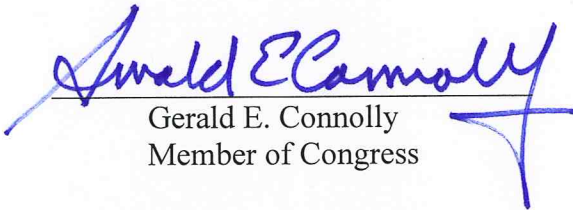
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



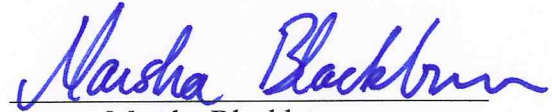
Fortney "Pete" Stark
Member of Congress



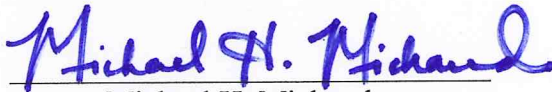
Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress



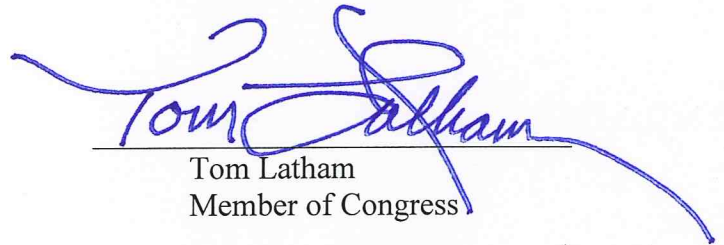
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



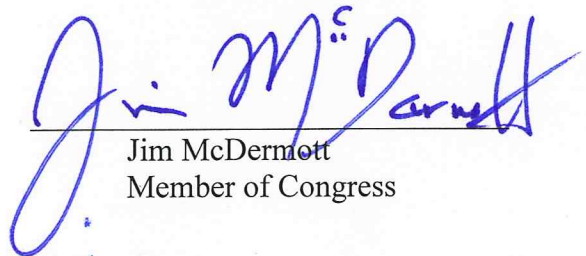
Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



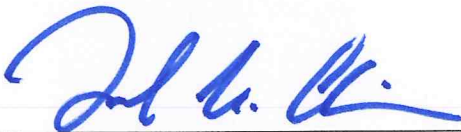
Tom Latham
Member of Congress



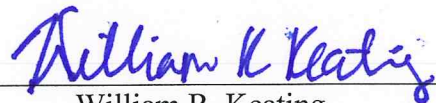
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



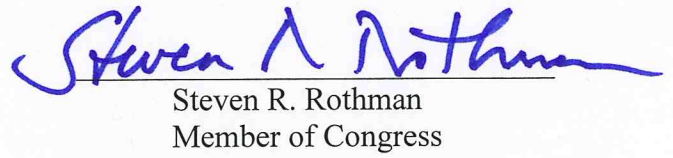
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



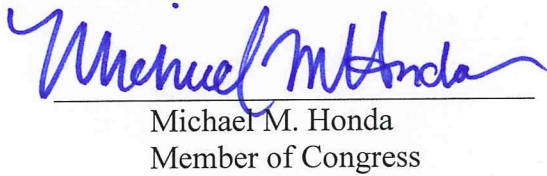
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



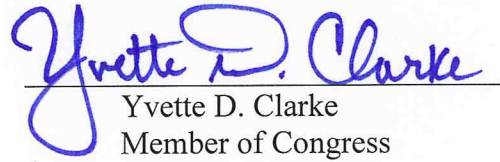
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



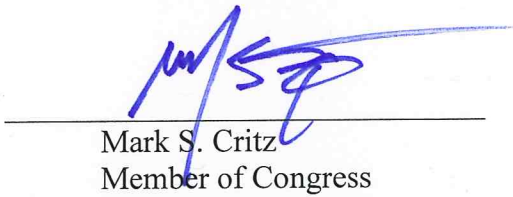
Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



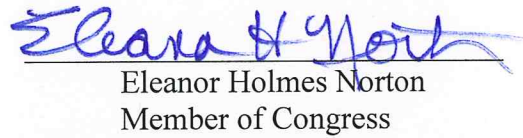
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



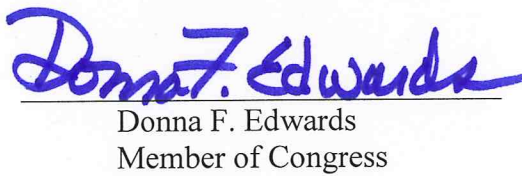
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



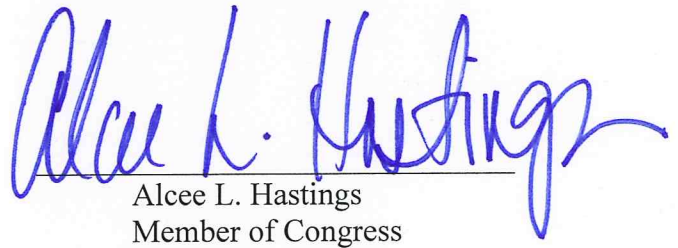
Mark S. Critz
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



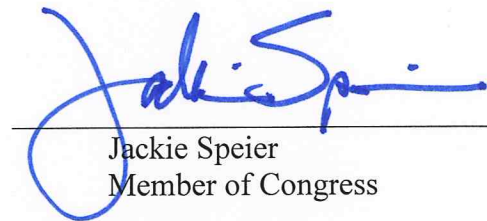
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



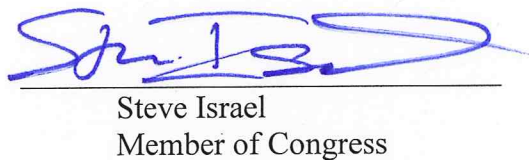
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



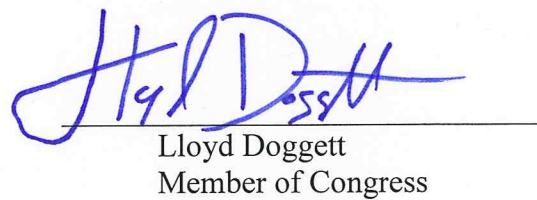
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



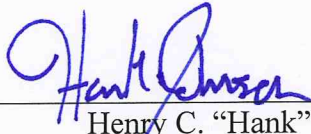
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



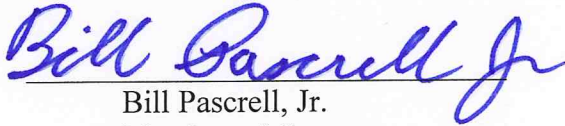
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



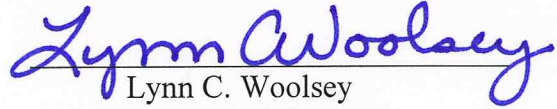
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



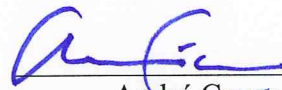
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



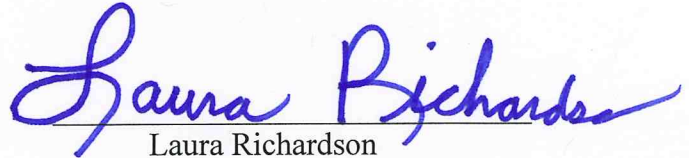
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



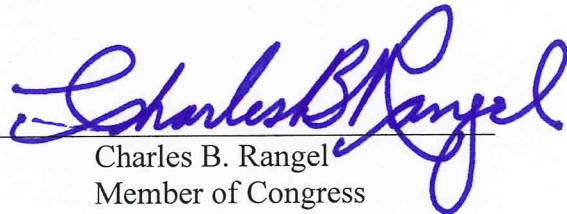
André Carson
Member of Congress



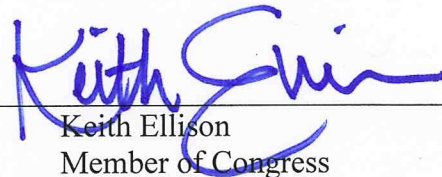
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



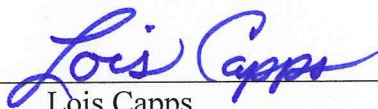
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



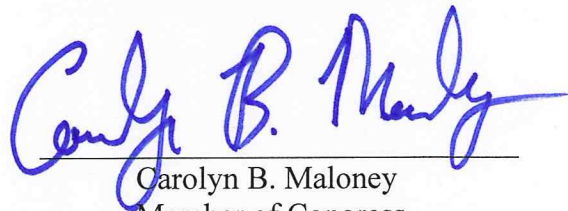
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
Dr. Esther D. Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations
Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Representative to the United Nations