

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our strong support for the immediate enactment of a five year reauthorization of the 2009 Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) reforms.

The Trade Expansion Act of 1962 created the Trade Adjustment Assistance program to assist workers laid off as a result of international trade by helping them retrain and acquire skills needed to compete in the global environment. In 2009, Congress enacted the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, making significant improvements to the TAA for Workers program as well as the other TAA programs – Firms, Farmers, and Communities.

The 2009 reforms had the full support of the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee. Underscoring the bipartisanship, bicameral support for the 2009 reforms, Congressman Camp, who was then the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means stated, “[t]his important package provides a coherent, rational, accountable, and cost-effective system for training trade-affected workers and putting them back to work quickly and at better jobs”. Similarly, Senator Grassley, the Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee stated, “today’s achievement...is the culmination of years of effort, and I am confident that the result will serve to benefit American workers in Iowa and across the United States for years to come”.

The 2009 TAA reforms dramatically improved the TAA for Workers program. Specifically, the legislation made service sector workers eligible for the program, expanded access for manufacturing workers, significantly increased training funding and promoted on-the-job, part-time and longer-term training. Critically, it also increased the TAA for Workers Health Coverage Tax Credit subsidy to 80 percent and made several important changes to the existing credit. These changes were designed to minimize gaps in coverage and assure access to insurance policies that meet the health and medical needs of eligible individuals and their families. The 2009 legislation also made important reforms to the TAA for Firms program and tripled its authorization, improved the TAA for Farmers program, and created the TAA for Communities program.

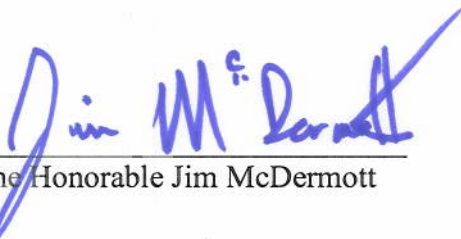
Since the reforms were implemented in May 2009, more than 185,000 additional trade-impacted workers who may not have been certified under the “old” 2002 TAA for Workers program have become eligible for training opportunities and benefits. In total, more than 435,000 workers

were certified as eligible for TAA support in that timeframe. In FY2010 alone, more than 227,000 workers took advantage of TAA and participated in the program, receiving case management, training and/or income support.

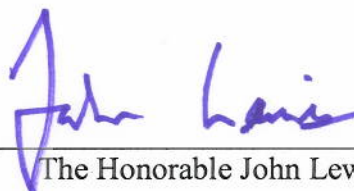
The 2009 TAA reforms expired on February 12, 2011, and just last week, the Department of Labor denied the first three petitions filed by groups of workers seeking TAA assistance under pre-2009 TAA rules. The reason for the denial: they were service workers, and now that the 2009 reforms have lapsed, service workers are not eligible for TAA. Inevitably, the inability of these laid off workers to obtain TAA support and training, as well as the more limited benefits available to those workers whose TAA petitions are approved, will impede their efforts to obtain new jobs in growth sectors like health, information technology and precision manufacturing and contribute to the economic recovery.

The denial of these service workers' petitions for TAA assistance demonstrates the real consequences for working families associated with the failure to reauthorize TAA. The 2009 program should never have been allowed to lapse, and it is imperative that it is re-started immediately before additional workers are harmed. We therefore support the immediate passage of a five-year reauthorization of the 2009 TAA reforms and look forward to working with the Administration to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Jim McDermott



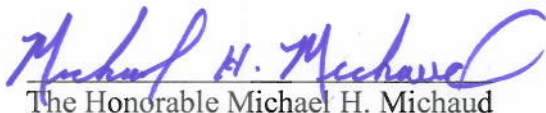
The Honorable John Lewis



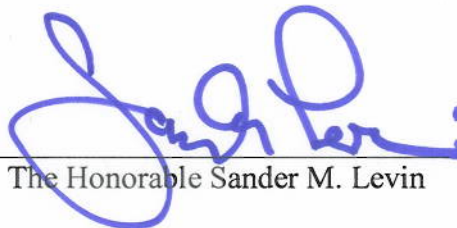
The Honorable Xavier Becerra




The Honorable Adam Smith



The Honorable Michael H. Michaud



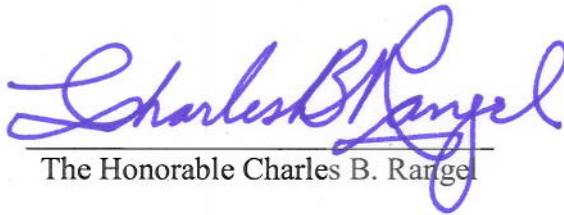
The Honorable Sander M. Levin



The Honorable John D. Dingell



The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.



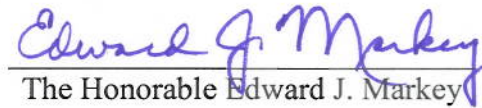
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel



The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark



The Honorable George Miller



The Honorable Edward J. Markey



The Honorable Henry A. Waxman



The Honorable Dale E. Kildee



The Honorable Norman D. Dicks



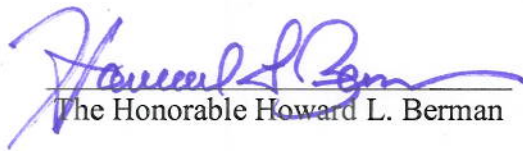
The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II



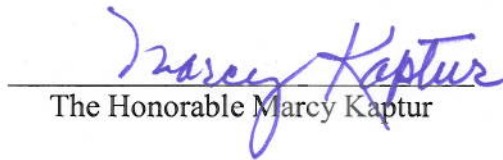
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer



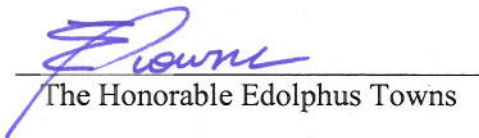
The Honorable Barney Frank



The Honorable Howard L. Berman



The Honorable Marcy Kaptur



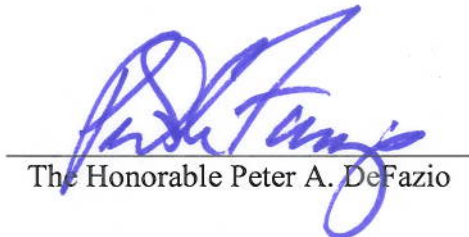
The Honorable Edolphus Towns



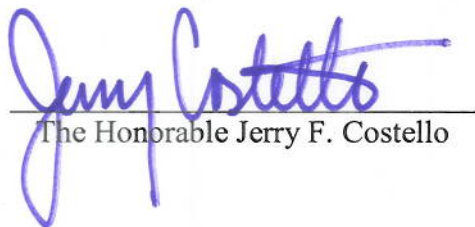
The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman



The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky



The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio



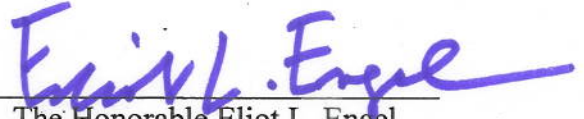
The Honorable Jerry F. Costello



The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.



The Honorable Richard E. Neal



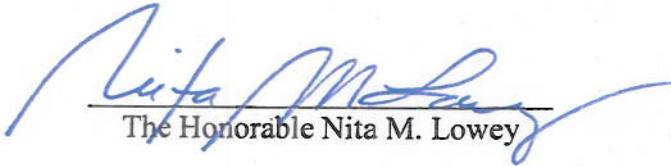
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel



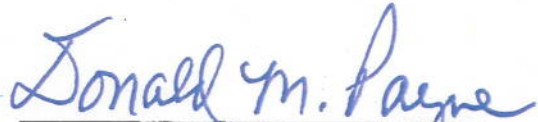
The Honorable David E. Price



The Honorable Robert E. Andrews



The Honorable Nita M. Lowey



The Honorable Donald M. Payne



The Honorable James P. Moran



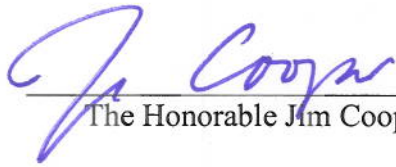
The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro



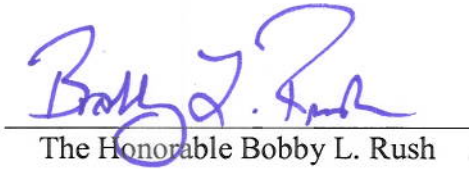
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton



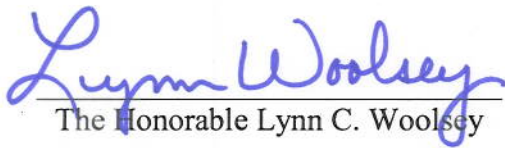
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler


The Honorable Jim Cooper



The Honorable Sam Farr


The Honorable Bobby L. Rush



The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard

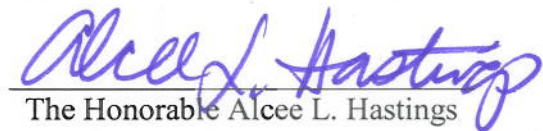

The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey


The Honorable Gene Green



The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

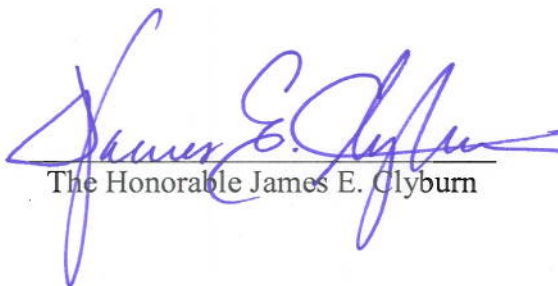

The Honorable Bob Filner

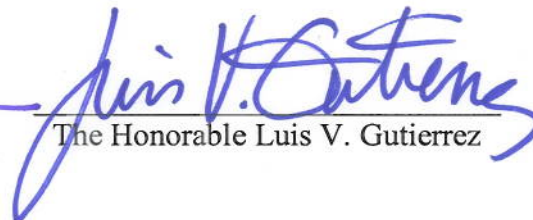

The Honorable Tim Holden



The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings


The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey


The Honorable Corrine Brown


The Honorable James E. Clyburn


The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez


The Honorable Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

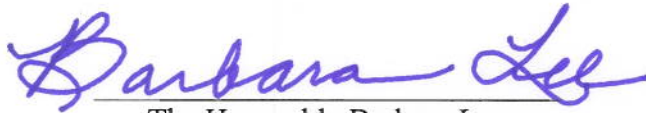

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer


The Honorable Lloyd Doggett


The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings


The Honorable Michael F. Doyle

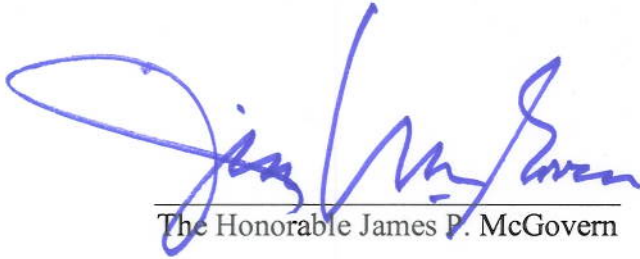

The Honorable Chaka Fattah



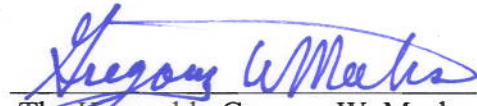
The Honorable Barbara Lee



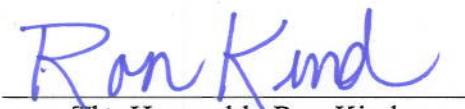
The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.



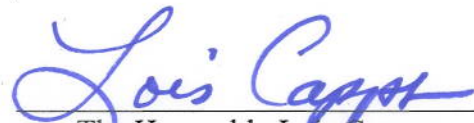
The Honorable James P. McGovern



The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks



The Honorable Ron Kind



The Honorable Lois Capps



The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy




The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa



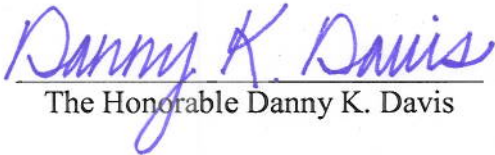
The Honorable Mike McIntyre

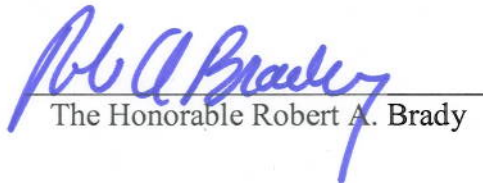


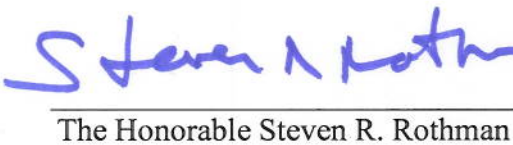
The Honorable Brad Sherman


The Honorable Dennis J. Kucinich

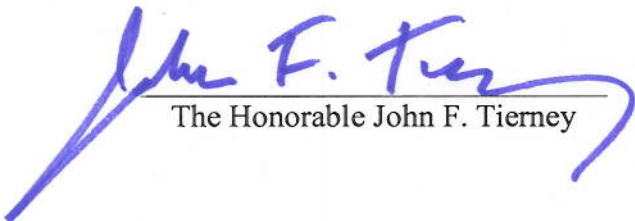

The Honorable Jay Inslee

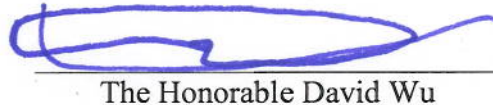

The Honorable Danny K. Davis


The Honorable Robert A. Brady


The Honorable Steven R. Rothman

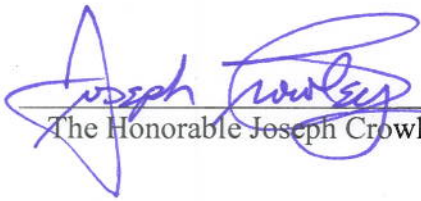

The Honorable Silvestre Reyes

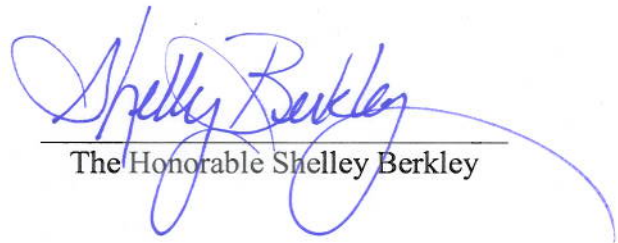

The Honorable John F. Tierney

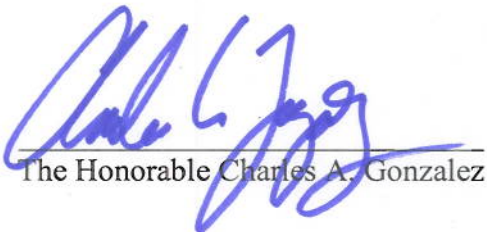

The Honorable David Wu

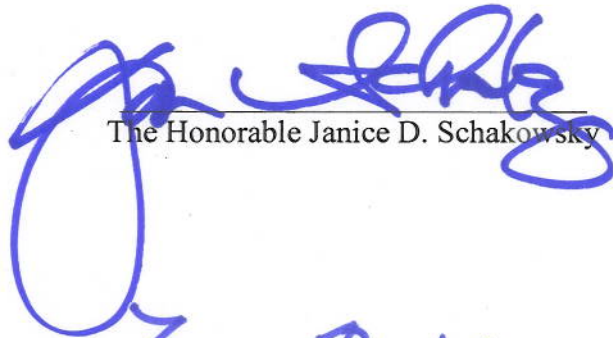

The Honorable John B. Larson


The Honorable Michael E. Capuano

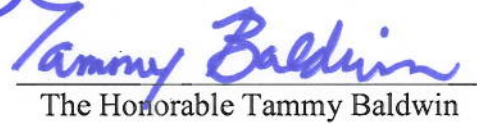

The Honorable Joseph Crowley


The Honorable Shelley Berkley

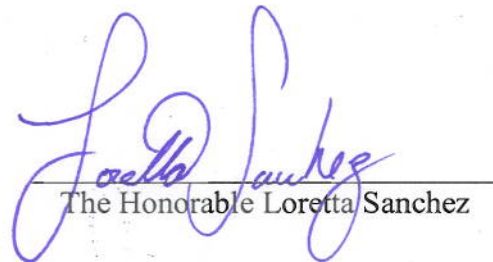

The Honorable Charles A. Gonzalez


The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky


The Honorable Mike Thompson

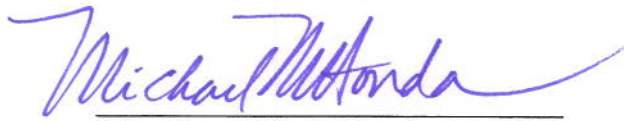

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin


The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano

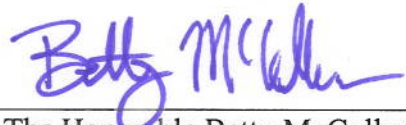

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez


The Honorable Rush D. Holt


The Honorable Joe Baca



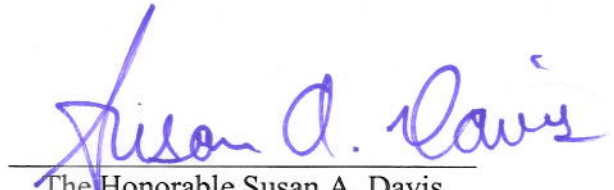
The Honorable Michael M. Honda



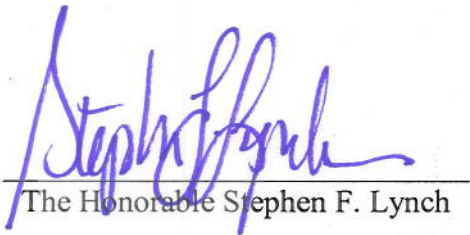
The Honorable Betty McCollum



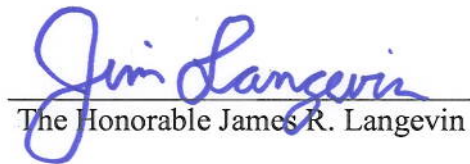
The Honorable Rick Larsen



The Honorable Susan A. Davis



The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch



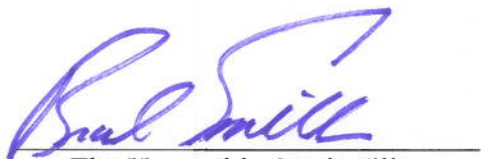
The Honorable James R. Langevin



The Honorable Steve Israel



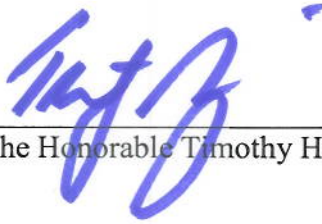
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva



The Honorable Brad Miller



The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez



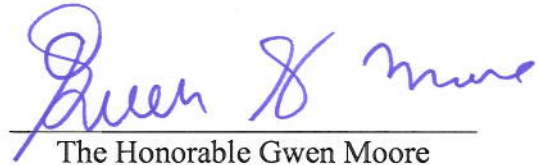
The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop



The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppberger



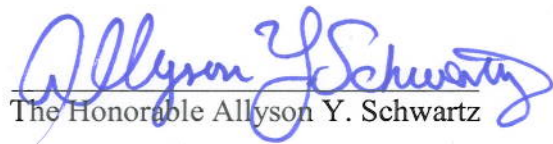
The Honorable David Scott



The Honorable Gwen Moore



The Honorable Albio Sires



The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz



The Honorable Daniel Lipinski



The Honorable Brian Higgins



The Honorable Al Green




The Honorable Russ Carnahan


The Honorable Doris O. Matsui


The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz


The Honorable Henry Cuellar

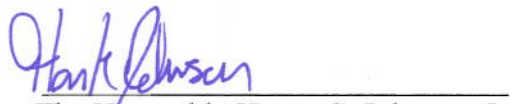

The Honorable Dan Boren

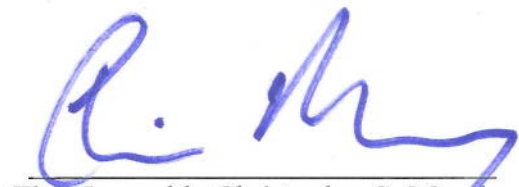

The Honorable Jim Costa


The Honorable Laura Richardson


The Honorable Betty Sutton


The Honorable Jason Altmire


The Honorable Henry C. Johnson, Jr.


The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy



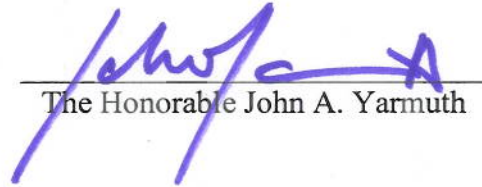
The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono



The Honorable David Loeb sack



The Honorable Joe Courtney



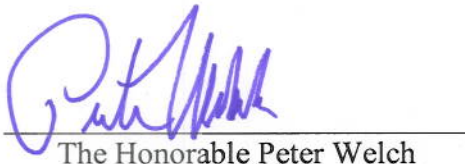
The Honorable John A. Yarmuth



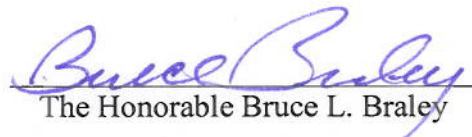
The Honorable Steve Cohen



The Honorable Keith Ellison



The Honorable Peter Welch



The Honorable Bruce L. Braley



The Honorable Heath Shuler



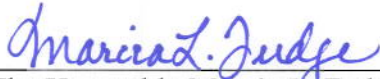
The Honorable Niki Tsongas



The Honorable Chris Van Hollen



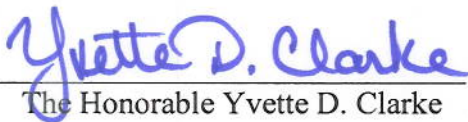
The Honorable Tim Ryan



The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge



The Honorable André Carson



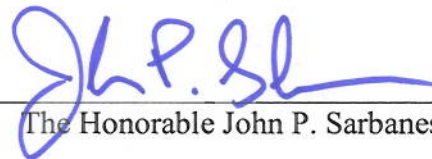
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke



The Honorable Timothy J. Walz



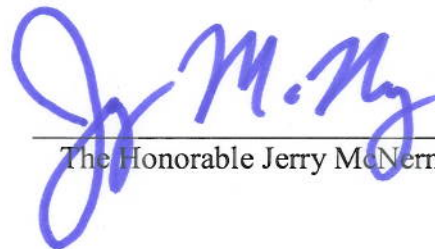
The Honorable Kathy Castor



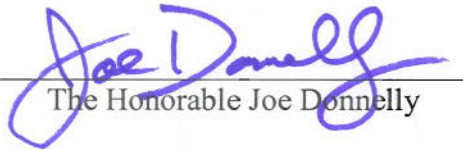
The Honorable John P. Sarbanes



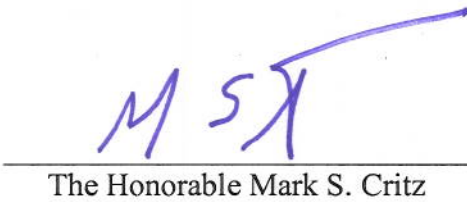
The Honorable Donna F. Edwards



The Honorable Jerry McNerney

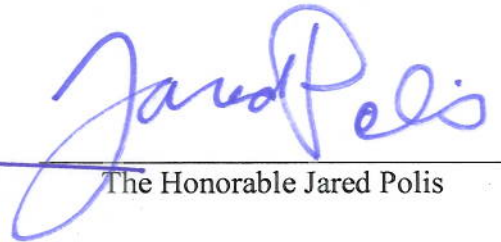

The Honorable Joe Donnelly

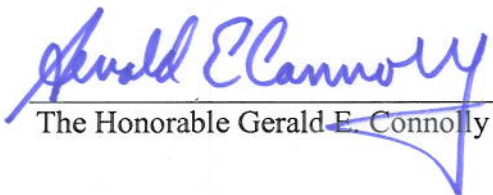

The Honorable Larry Kissell

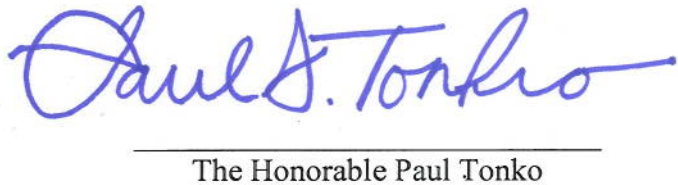

The Honorable Mark S. Critz


The Honorable Gary C. Peters


The Honorable Chellie Pingree


The Honorable Jared Polis

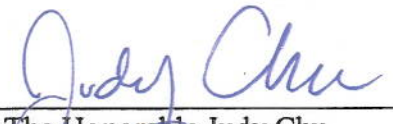

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly


The Honorable Paul Tonko



The Honorable Kurt Schrader

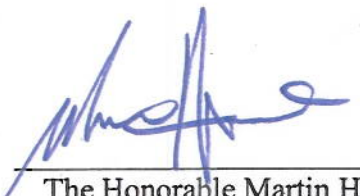

The Honorable William L. Owens


The Honorable John Garamendi

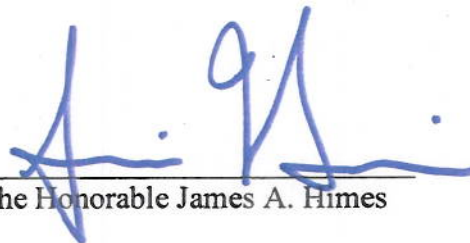

The Honorable Judy Chu



The Honorable Ben Ray Luján

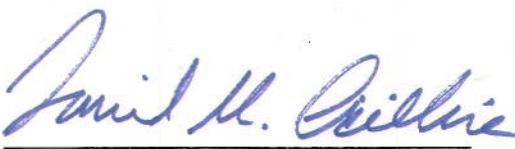

The Honorable Theodore E. Deutch

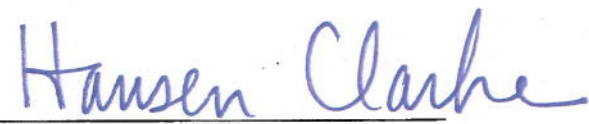

The Honorable Martin Heinrich

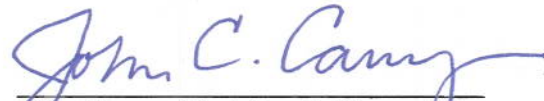

The Honorable Mike Quigley


The Honorable James A. Himes



The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond

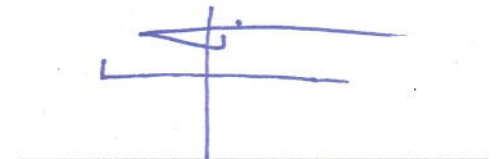

The Honorable David N. Cicilline


The Honorable Hansen Clarke



The Honorable John C. Carney, Jr.


The Honorable Terri A. Sewell


The Honorable William R. Keating


The Honorable Colleen W. Hanabusa


The Honorable Maxine Waters


The Honorable Adam Schiff