

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 7, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Corps and we urge you to issue a Presidential Proclamation recognizing this significant milestone. As President, you have prioritized the importance of public service and development and no entity better embodies these two qualities than the Peace Corps. In the past five decades, over 200,000 Americans from all 50 states have served in developing countries doing, as you yourself said, ‘critical work.’ As March is Peace Corps Month, a Presidential Proclamation is a highly appropriate way to honor 50 years of Volunteer service and inspire future generations of Americans to serve.

Peace Corps is one of America’s enduring expressions of friendship and goodwill abroad. In 1961, President Kennedy called on Americans to serve their country in the cause of peace. Within five years, more than 15,000 Volunteers were serving in 44 developing countries, demonstrating to the international community the American values of peace, prosperity, and opportunity that had been eclipsed by the Cold War. Over the past 50 years, through war and conflict, Peace Corps Volunteers have shown the world a hopeful, uplifting side of America that reflects our fundamental ideals of service, tolerance, and grassroots development.

Dollar for dollar, Peace Corps Volunteers are one of the Federal Government’s most effective agents of both diplomacy and development. In your Policy Directive on Global Development, you identified the need to elevate development as a core pillar of American diplomacy. Since Peace Corps’ inception, Volunteers have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with communities in 139 developing countries, including key priority areas for the United States. Forty-six Peace Corps sites help administer the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and nearly 25% of Volunteers serve in more than a third of all countries considered Muslim. While Peace Corps Volunteers take on a diverse array of critical projects, they are linked by their commitment to lift up local capacity and promote sustainable development outcomes.

With such a laudable track record, it is not surprising that Peace Corps receives high praise from world leaders and presidents. Niger President Mamadou Tandja stated that, “The Peace Corps is a model of development assistance,” and former World Bank President A.W. Clausen said, “We at the World Bank have come across [Peace Corps

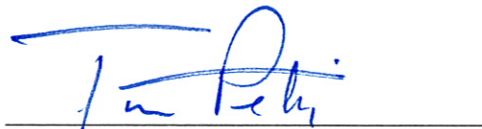
Volunteers] in every corner of the developing world and see what fine work their dedication and drive achieve." More than 20 countries have requested Peace Corps Volunteers and still other countries have requested an increase in the number of Volunteers. Now more than ever, as the United States confronts harsh scrutiny from the international community, we must honor this program that has become a beacon of American idealism and goodwill.

The Peace Corps taps into the best of what America has to offer the world. We urge you to issue a Presidential Proclamation to recognize 50 years of incredible service and usher in the next generation of Volunteers to serve our great nation in the name of peace.

Sincerely,



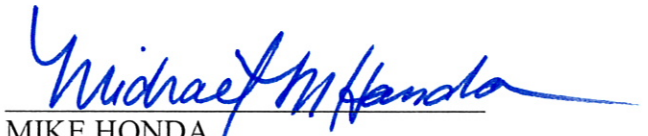
SAM FARR  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Colombia, 1964-66



TOM PETRI  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Somalia, 1966-67



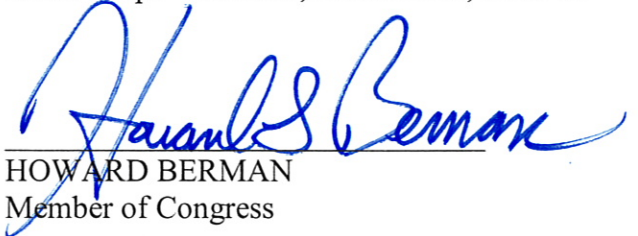
JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Ethiopia, 1966-68



MIKE HONDA  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, El Salvador, 1965-67



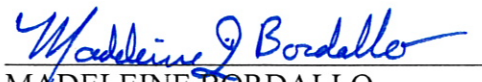
TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress



HOWARD BERMAN  
Member of Congress



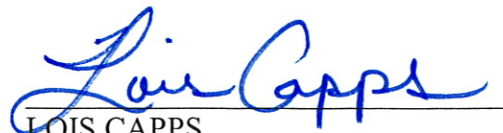
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress




MADELEINE BORDALLO  
Member of Congress




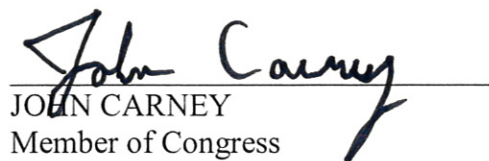
LEONARD BOSWELL  
Member of Congress

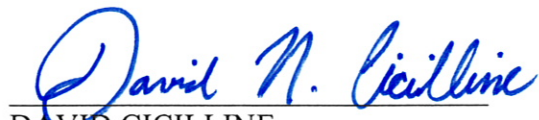


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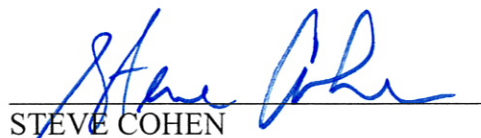
  
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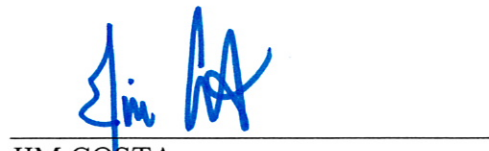
  
ROB ANDREWS  
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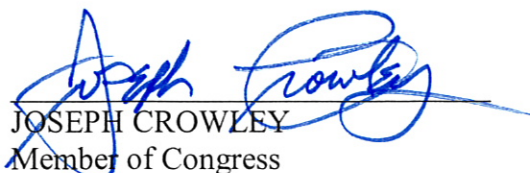
  
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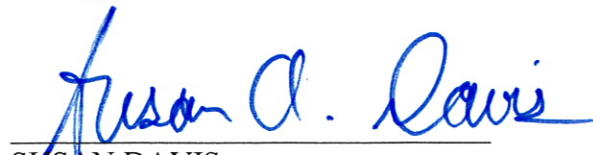
  
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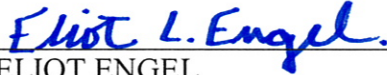
TED DEUTCH  
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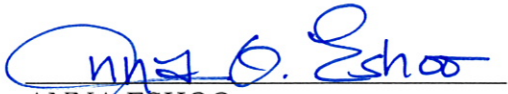
DONNA EDWARDS  
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ELIOT ENGEL  
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ANNA ESHOO  
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ENI FALEOMAVAEGA  
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CHAKA FATTAH  
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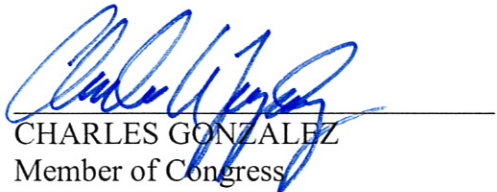
BOB FILNER  
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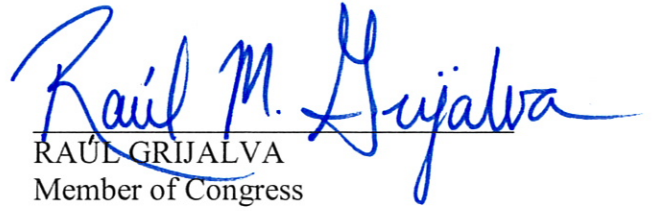
BARNEY FRANK  
Member of Congress



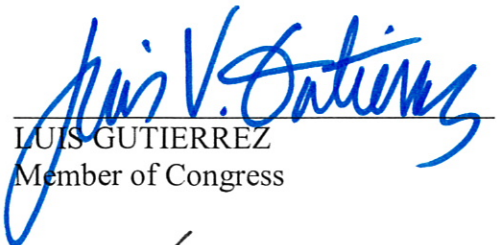
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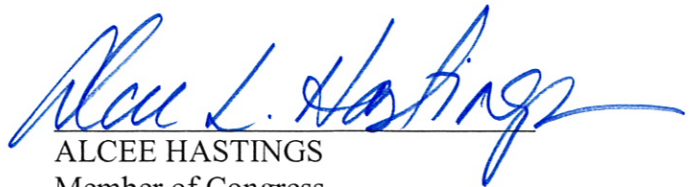
LUIS GUTIERREZ  
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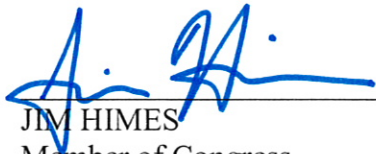
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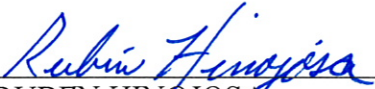
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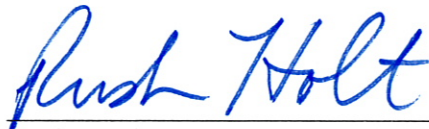
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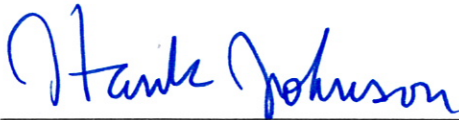
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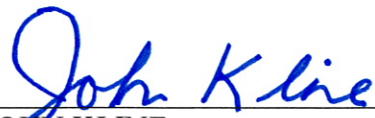
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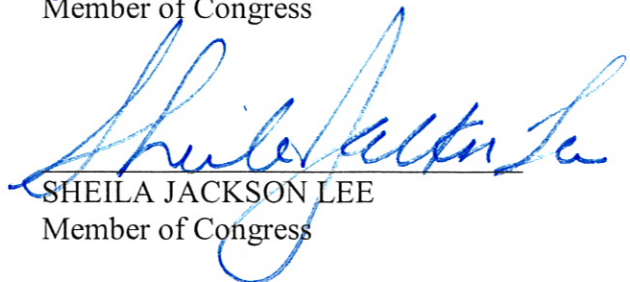
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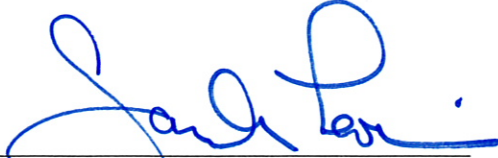
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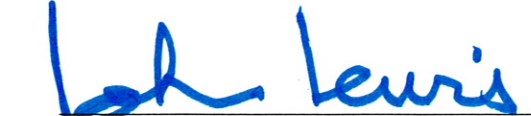


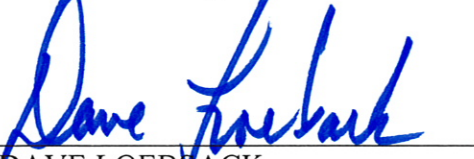
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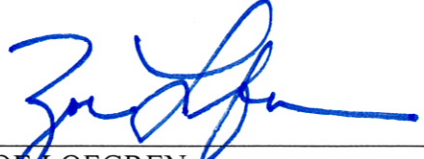


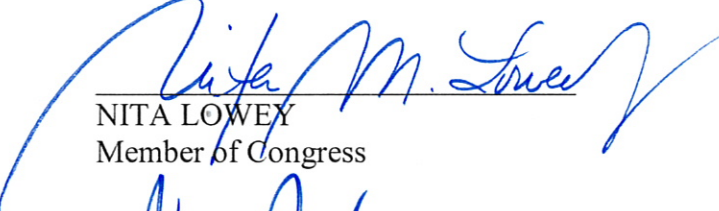
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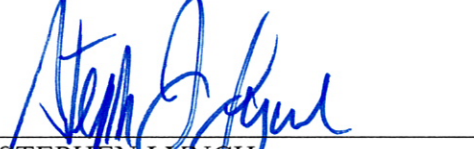
  
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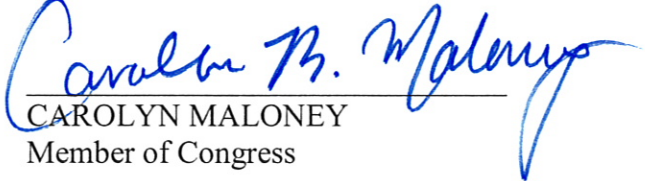
  
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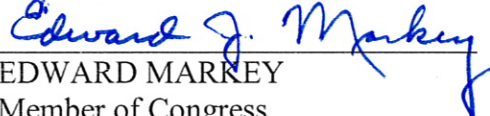
  
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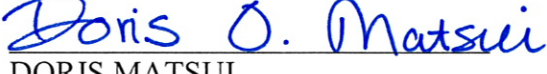
  
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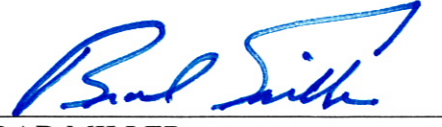
  
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JERRY MCNERNEY  
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BRAD MILLER  
Member of Congress





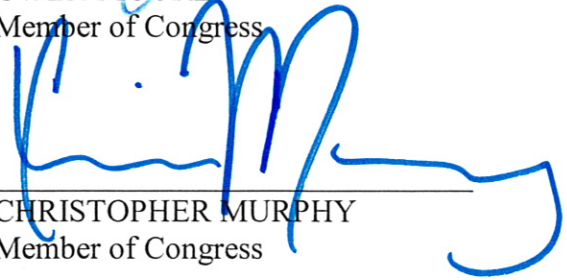
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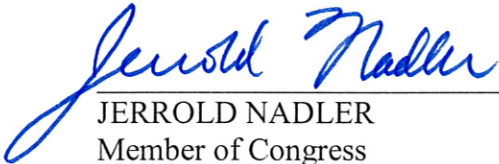
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JIM MORAN  
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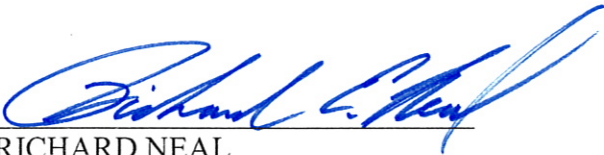
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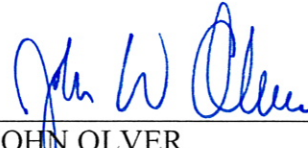
JERROLD NADLER  
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GRACE NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress



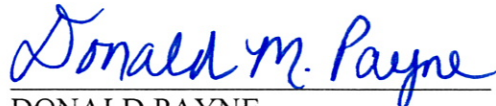
RICHARD NEAL  
Member of Congress



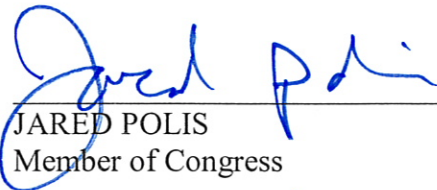
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FRANK PALLONE  
Member of Congress



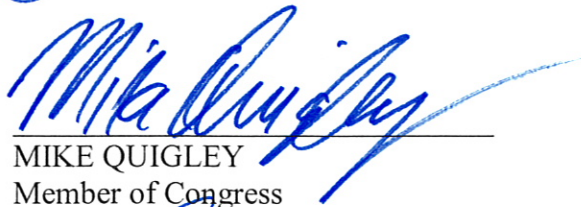
DONALD PAYNE  
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS  
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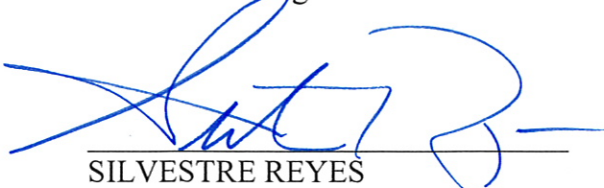
DAVID PRICE  
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MIKE QUIGLEY  
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CHARLES RANGEL  
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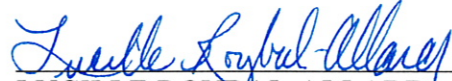
SILVESTRE REYES  
Member of Congress



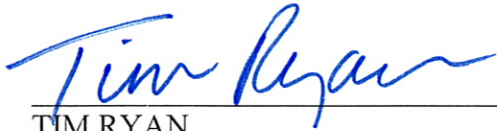
LAURA RICHARDSON  
Member of Congress



STEVE ROTHMAN  
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LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
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TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
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LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress



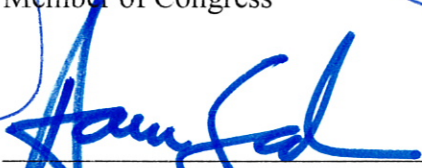
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JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
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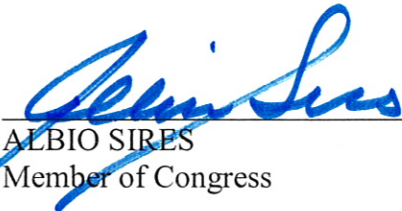
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Member of Congress



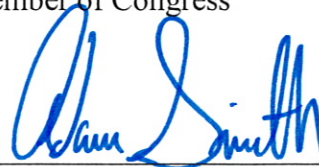
AARON SCHOCK  
Member of Congress



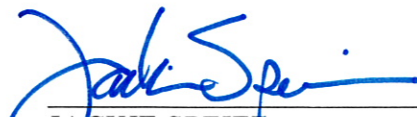
ALLYSON SCHWARTZ  
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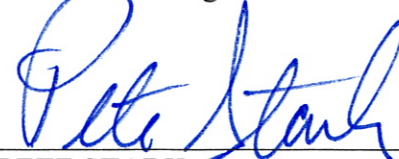
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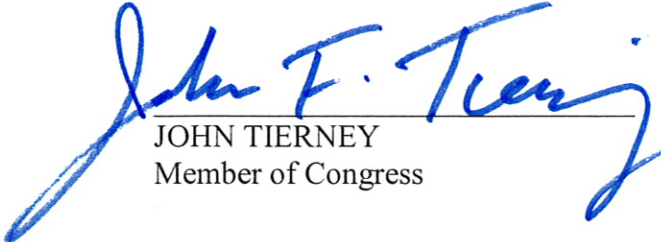




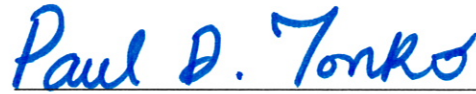
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Member of Congress



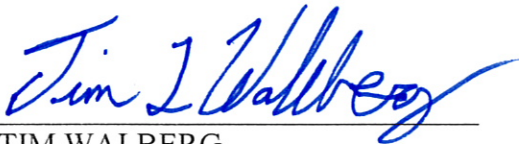
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NIKI TSONGAS  
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CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
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TIM WALZ  
Member of Congress



HENRY WAXMAN  
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PETER WELCH  
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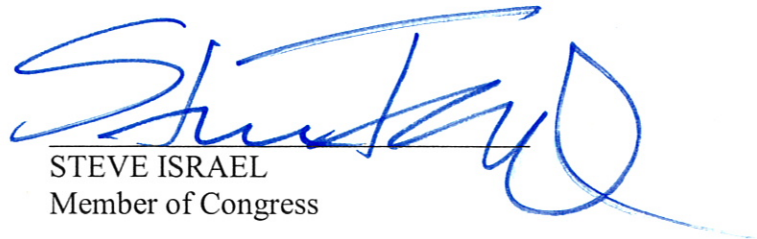
FREDERICA WILSON  
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*Michael W. Michaud*  
MICHAEL MICHAUD  
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*Danny K. Davis*

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*Cl W. Dutt*

*Cheri Linn*

*D. Burt*

*Karen Bass*

*Bonnie M. Thompson*

*Jane Han*

*Tim Holden*

*Joe Brown*

*Peter J. Visclosky*


*Edwards*

*Al Green*

*Kit DeZure*

*Mary L. Aepferman*

Samuel D. B. Coyle Jr.



Kathy Castor





**SIGNATURE KEY: pages 10-11**  
(left to right)

**Page 10:**

1. DANNY DAVIS, Member of Congress
2. TODD PLATTS, Member of Congress
3. FRANK WOLF, Member of Congress
4. TIMOTHY BISHOP, Member of Congress
5. CHARLIE DENT, Member of Congress
6. CHELLIE PINGREE, Member of Congress
7. DAVID REICHERT, Member of Congress
8. KAREN BASS, Member of Congress
9. BENNIE THOMPSON, Member of Congress
10. JANE HARMAN, Member of Congress
11. TIM HOLDEN, Member of Congress
12. JOE BACA, Member of Congress
13. PETER VISCLOSKEY, Member of Congress
14. ED TOWNS, Member of Congress
15. AL GREEN, Member of Congress
16. PETER DEFAZIO, Member of Congress
17. GARY ACKERMAN, Member of Congress
18. SANFORD BISHOP, Member of Congress
19. KATHY CASTOR, Member of Congress
20. COLLEEN HANABUSA, Member of Congress
21. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Member of Congress