

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to offer our support for the general policy put forth in your draft executive order "Disclosure of Political Spending by Government Contractors" dated April 13, 2011. As supporters of greater disclosure of political contributions, we believe it is both justifiable and beneficial for the public to have access to information regarding the political involvement of federal contractors.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's January 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, companies are allowed to spend unlimited sums on independent expenditures in election campaigns. Absent public disclosure, there will certainly be some contractors who would seek to influence the awarding of contracts through unreported political contributions. By requiring contractors to disclose such contributions, you will help to prevent the temptation to engage in inappropriate and illegal behavior.

Taxpayers are ultimately the ones financing government contracts. It is therefore entirely appropriate that they be able to see how companies earning taxpayer money through federal contracts spend any part of those earnings on influencing politicians. Political contributions should not be able to affect the awarding of federal contracts, and the best way to guard against this is through disclosure of contributions and any possible conflicts of interest.

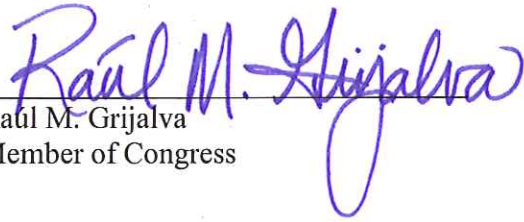
The disclosure set forth in your draft executive order clearly should not serve to either advantage or disadvantage any one firm. In fact, every effort should be made to insure that acquisition professionals do not consider the disclosure information as part of the procurement process.

We encourage you to move forward with measures to promote greater disclosure of political contributions, and specifically to finalize the draft executive order on government contractors.

Sincerely,


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

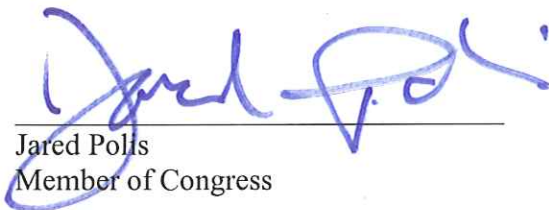

Louise M. Slaughter
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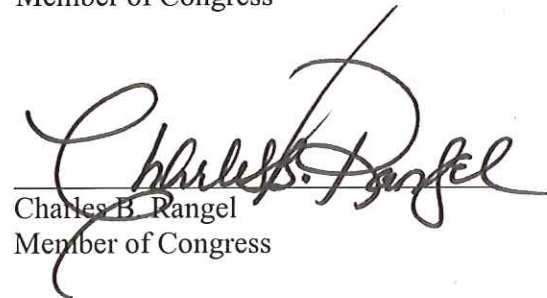

Jerry Costello
Member of Congress

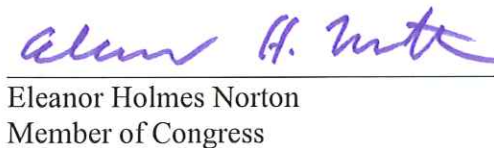

Elijah E. Cummings
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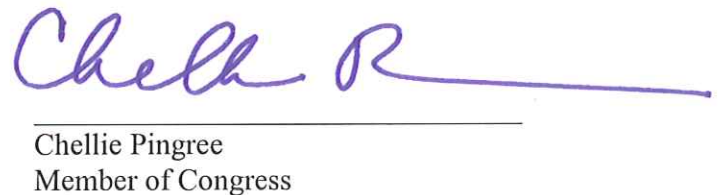

Peter Welch
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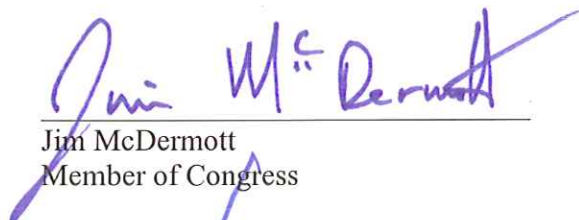

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
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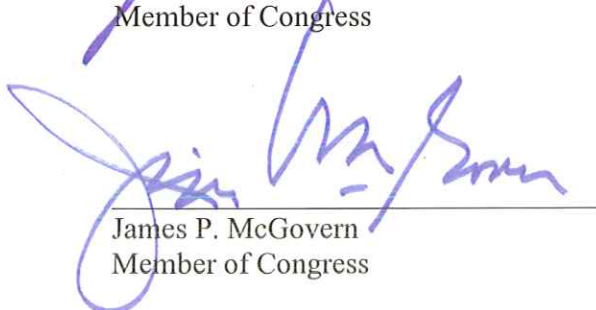

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

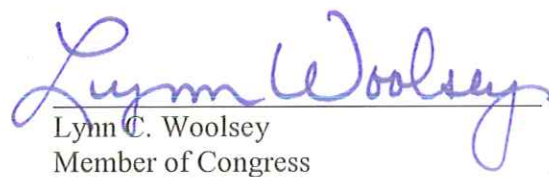

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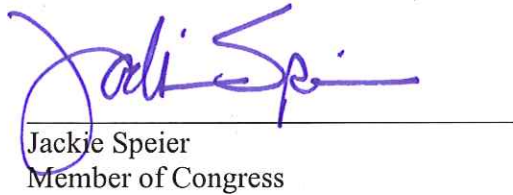

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Pete Stark
Member of Congress

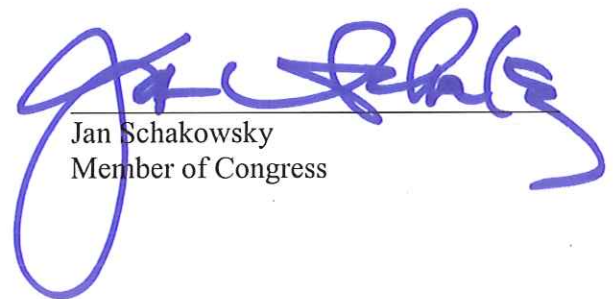

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

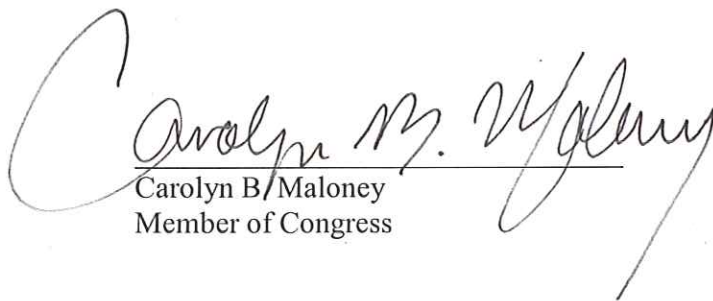

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