

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned, are deeply troubled by your recent comments that you are considering Ambassador Susan Rice to succeed Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State. Though Ambassador Rice has been our Representative to the U.N., we believe her misleading statements over the days and weeks following the attack on our embassy in Libya that led to the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and three other Americans caused irreparable damage to her credibility both at home and around the world.

In her interviews over that time, Ambassador Rice propagated a falsehood that the attacks were “spontaneous,” the outcome of a protest “spun out of control,” and the result of a YouTube video. Only on September 19 – eight days after the attack – did the American people learn from National Counterterrorism Director Matthew Olsen that the intelligence services quickly considered the attack an act of terrorism and that al Qaeda may have played a role.


Ambassador Rice is widely viewed as having either willfully or incompetently misled the American public in the Benghazi matter. Her actions plausibly give U.S. allies (and rivals) abroad reason to question U.S. commitment and credibility when needed. Thus, we believe that making her the face of U.S. foreign policy in your second term would greatly undermine your desire to improve U.S. relations with the world and continue to build trust with the American people.

As you know, there have been repeated Congressional requests for information on the events of September 11, 2012. Over the past month, our Senate colleagues have sent 13 separate letters to senior Administration officials, including to you. Many Members of the House of Representatives have also sent letters requesting answers. Our questions remain unanswered, and your Administration continues to deny Congress access to critical information necessary for effective oversight.


Recent reports of discrepancies between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency’s public timelines of the events on September 11 only exacerbate the problem, and we believe these inconsistencies deserve closer examination.

In light of this troubling situation and the continued unanswered questions, we strongly oppose any efforts to nominate Ambassador Susan Rice for the position of Secretary of State.

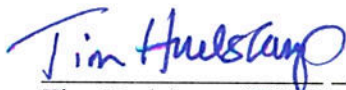
Sincerely,



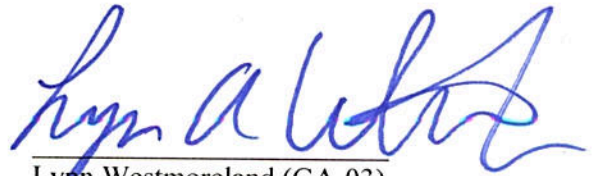
Jeff Duncan (SC-03)
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul (TX-10)
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03)
Member of Congress



Joseph Pitts (PA-16)
Member of Congress



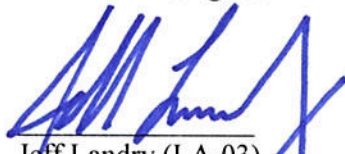
Steve Pearce (NM-02)
Member of Congress



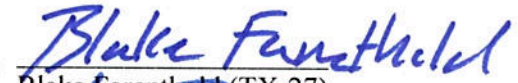
Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)
Member of Congress



John Culberson (TX-07)
Member of Congress



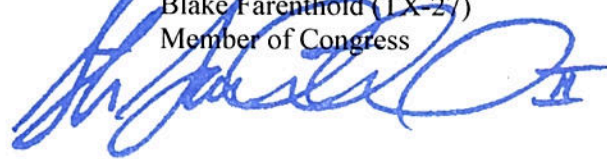
Jeff Landry (LA-03)
Member of Congress



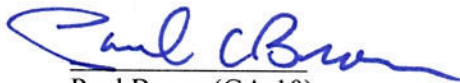
Blake Farenthold (TX-27)
Member of Congress



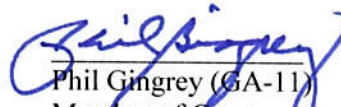
Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland (FL-02)
Member of Congress



Paul Broun (GA-10)
Member of Congress



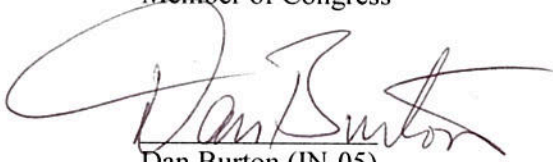
Phil Gingrey (GA-11)
Member of Congress



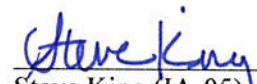
Dan Lungren (CA-03)
Member of Congress



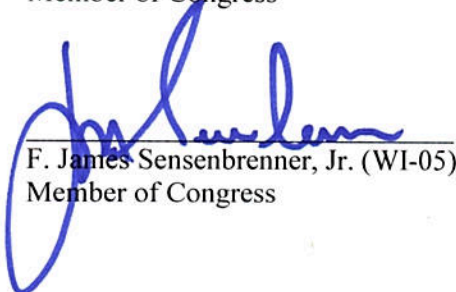
Frank Lucas (OK-03)
Member of Congress



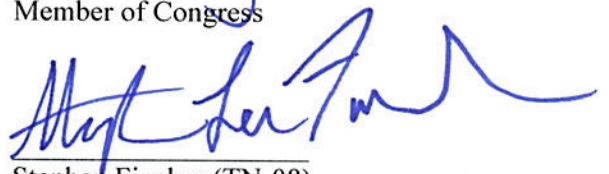
Dan Burton (IN-05)
Member of Congress




Steve King (IA-05)
Member of Congress

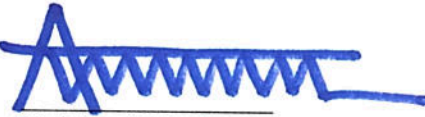


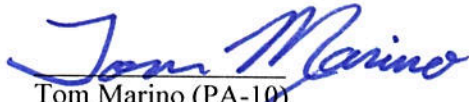
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (WI-05)
Member of Congress

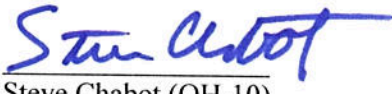


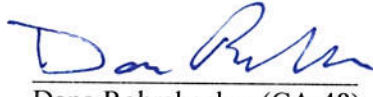
Stephen Fincher (TN-08)
Member of Congress

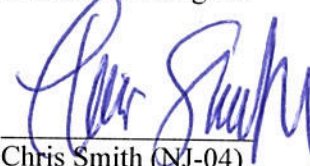

Renee Ellmers (NC-02)
Member of Congress

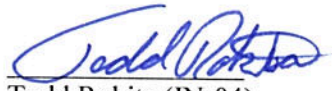

Ted Poe (TX-02)
Member of Congress

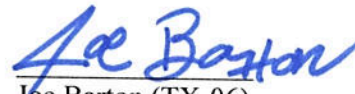

Tom Marino (PA-10)
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot (OH-10)
Member of Congress


Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48)
Member of Congress



Chris Smith (NJ-04)
Member of Congress

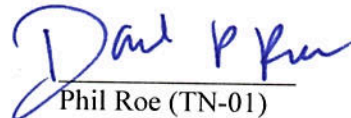

Todd Rokita (IN-04)
Member of Congress

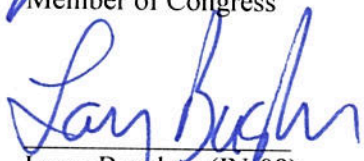

Joe Barton (TX-06)
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman (IN-03)
Member of Congress


Michele Bachmann (MN-06)
Member of Congress


John Carter (TX-31)
Member of Congress


Phil Roe (TN-01)
Member of Congress

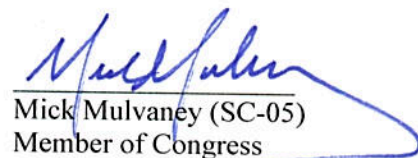

Larry Bucshon (IN-08)
Member of Congress

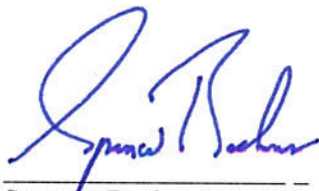

Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)
Member of Congress


David McKinley (WV-01)
Member of Congress

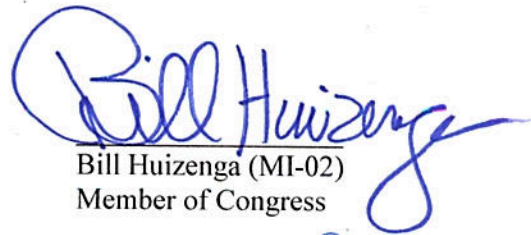

John Fleming (LA-04)
Member of Congress


Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Member of Congress


Mick Mulvaney (SC-05)
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus (AL-06)
Member of Congress



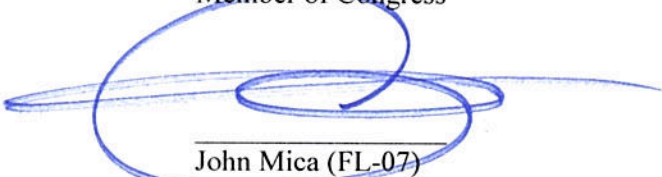
Bill Huizenga (MI-02)
Member of Congress



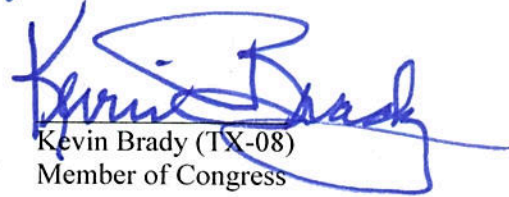
Paul Gosar (AZ-01)
Member of Congress



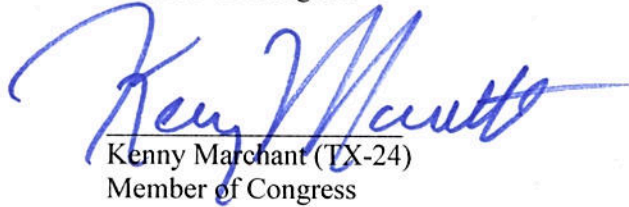
Mike Pompeo (KS-04)
Member of Congress



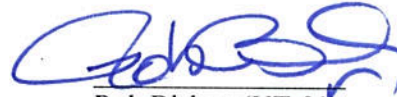
John Mica (FL-07)
Member of Congress



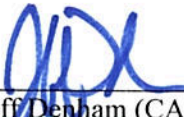
Kevin Brady (TX-08)
Member of Congress



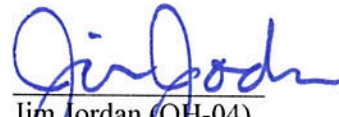
Kenny Marchant (TX-24)
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop (UT-01)
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham (CA-10)
Member of Congress



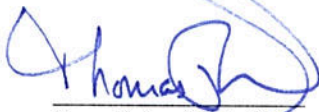
Jim Jordan (OH-04)
Member of Congress



David Schweikert (AZ-06)
Member of Congress



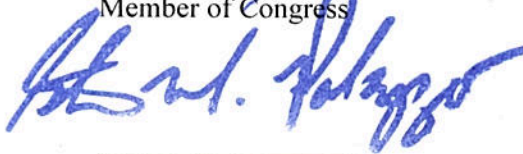
Tom Graves (GA-09)
Member of Congress



Tom Price (GA-06)
Member of Congress



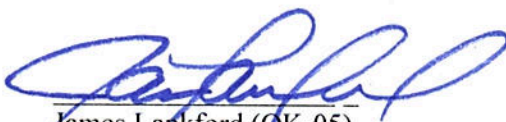
Dennis Ross (FL-12)
Member of Congress



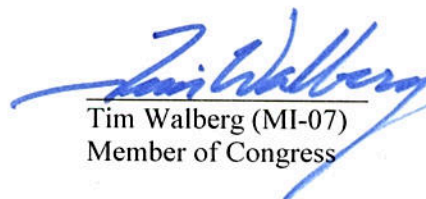
Steven Palazzo (MS-04)
Member of Congress



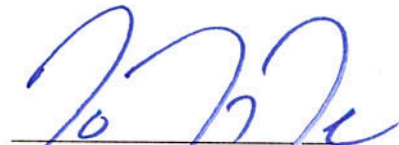
Billy Long (MO-07)
Member of Congress




James Lankford (OK-05)
Member of Congress



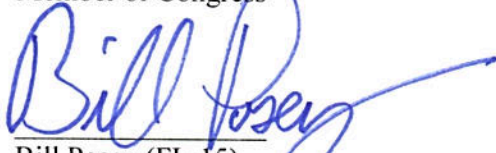
Tim Walberg (MI-07)
Member of Congress



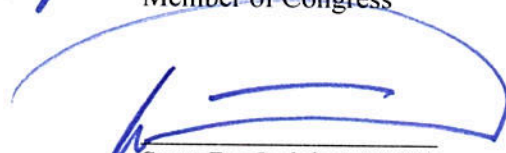
Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-21)
Member of Congress




Trent Franks (AZ-02)
Member of Congress




Bill Posey (FL-15)
Member of Congress



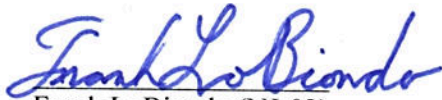
Scott DesJarlais (TN-04)
Member of Congress



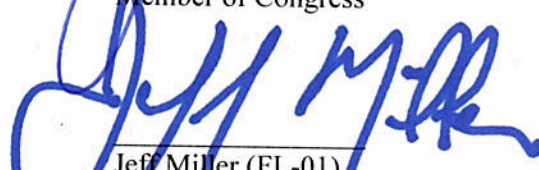
Bill Flores (TX-17)
Member of Congress



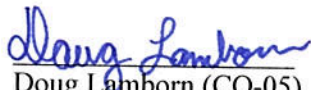
Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-25)
Member of Congress



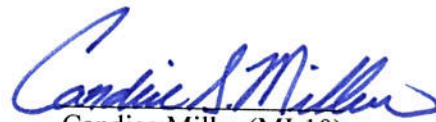
Frank LoBiondo (NJ-02)
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller (FL-01)
Member of Congress



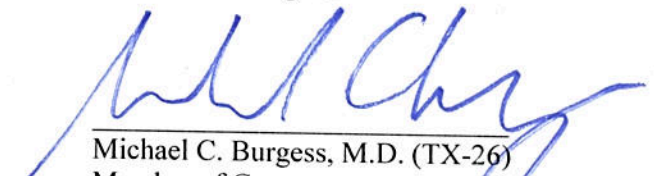
Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
Member of Congress




Candice Miller (MI-10)
Member of Congress




Roscoe Bartlett (MD-06)
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (TX-26)
Member of Congress



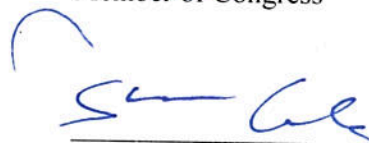
Rich Nugent (FL-05)
Member of Congress



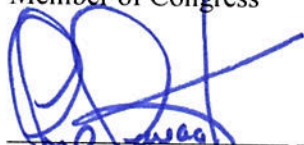
Bill Johnson (OH-06)
Member of Congress



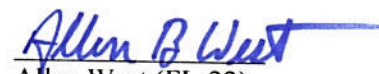
Robert Aderholt (AL-04)
Member of Congress



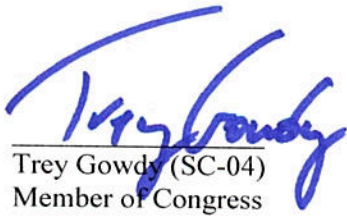
Tom Cole (OK-04)
Member of Congress

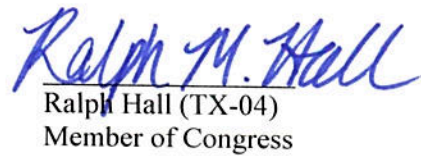


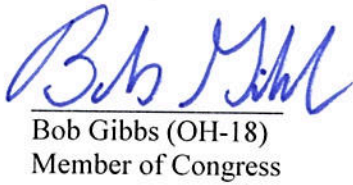
Chip Cravaack (MN-08)
Member of Congress

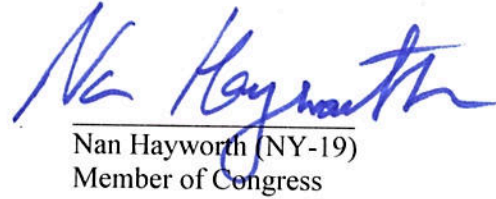


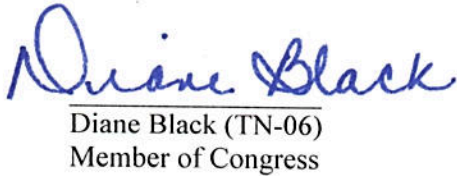
Allen West (FL-22)
Member of Congress


Trey Gowdy (SC-04)
Member of Congress

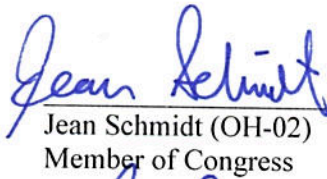

Ralph Hall (TX-04)
Member of Congress

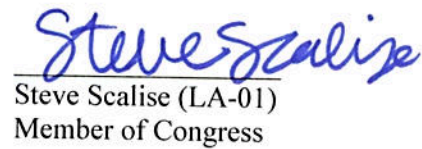

Bob Gibbs (OH-18)
Member of Congress

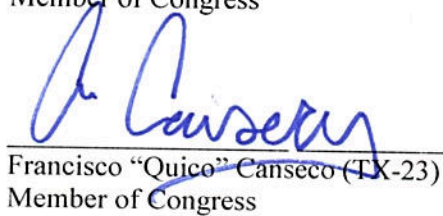

Nan Hayworth (NY-19)
Member of Congress

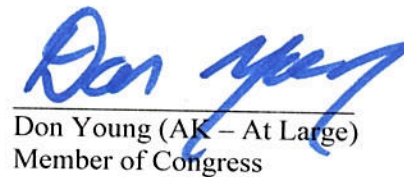

Diane Black (TN-06)
Member of Congress

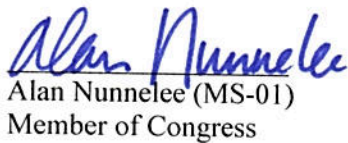

Tim Scott (SC-01)
Member of Congress

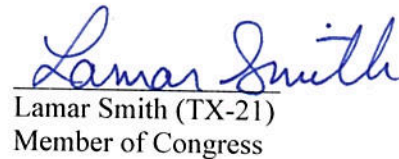

Jean Schmidt (OH-02)
Member of Congress


Steve Scalise (LA-01)
Member of Congress


Francisco "Quico" Canseco (TX-23)
Member of Congress

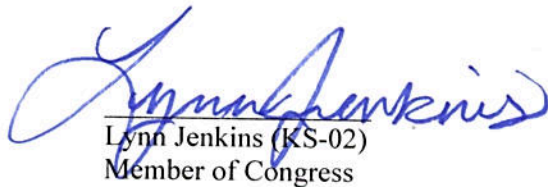

Don Young (AK - At Large)
Member of Congress

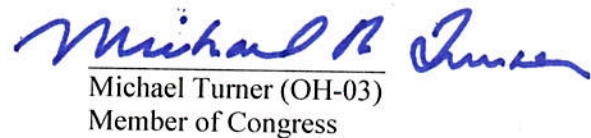

Alan Nunnelee (MS-01)
Member of Congress


Lamar Smith (TX-21)
Member of Congress


Sue Myrick (NC-09)
Member of Congress

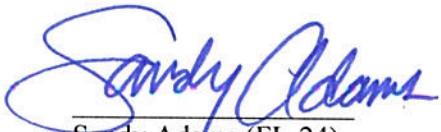

Cynthia Lummis (WY - At Large)
Member of Congress


Lynn Jenkins (KS-02)
Member of Congress

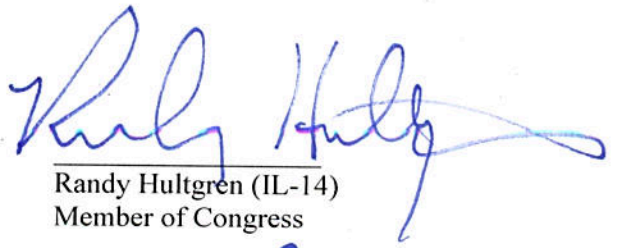

Michael Turner (OH-03)
Member of Congress


John Campbell (CA-48)
Member of Congress

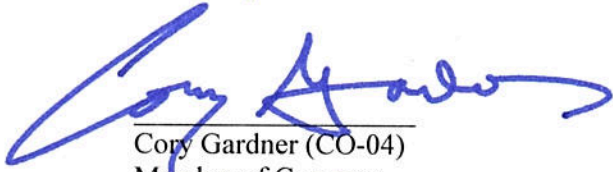

Connie Mack (FL-14)
Member of Congress



Sandy Adams (FL-24)
Member of Congress



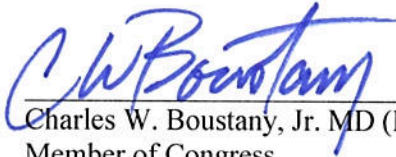
Randy Hultgren (IL-14)
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner (CO-04)
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin (AR-02)
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr. MD (LA-07)
Member of Congress