

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2013

Administrator Michael P. Huerta
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

In early March, the Federal Aviation Administration proposed closing 189 contract air traffic control towers as part of its plan to meet budget sequestration. Just after this announcement was made, multiple letters were sent to both FAA and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood in an effort to highlight the devastating impacts these closures would have on mostly smaller cities and rural communities and to urge consideration of alternative cuts.

While FAA has reduced the number of closures to 149, it is disappointing that the Administration has failed to come up with a plan that would preserve some level of service for all air traffic control towers. The decision by FAA, DOT, and the Administration to close these 149 towers demonstrates a failure to responsibly and safely use the Executive discretion that the Administration is given under sequestration. A shared burden was the intention of sequestration; however, under FAA's current plan, these cuts will only be felt among smaller cities and rural communities. The closing of these towers will have drastic impacts on the smaller cities and rural communities these contract towers serve.

Again, we request for FAA to consider all possible alternatives that would maintain some level of service for all contract air towers and ensure air safety. These possible alternatives include other ways of reducing spending within the ATO account that would share the burden fairly across all programs, projects, and activities, as well as formally requesting a reprogramming of funds from Congressional appropriators. We expect a response as to how FAA and DOT will take immediate steps to avoid the closure of these 149 contract air traffic control towers.

Sincerely,



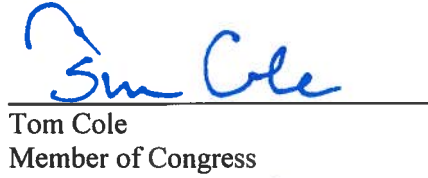
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

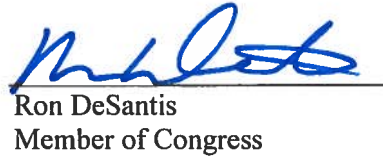


Robert Hurt
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Martha Roby
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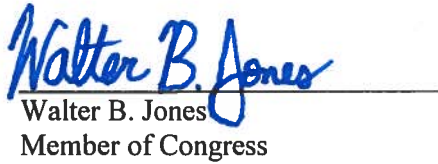

Billy Long
Member of Congress


Tom Cole
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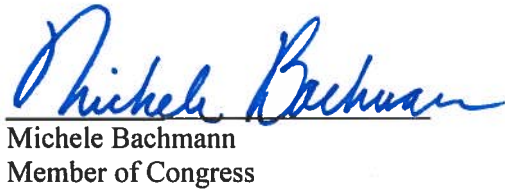

Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
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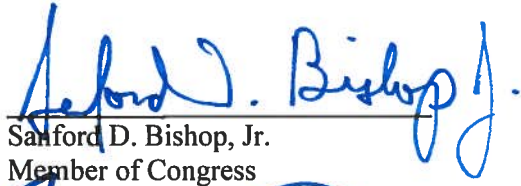

William Enyart
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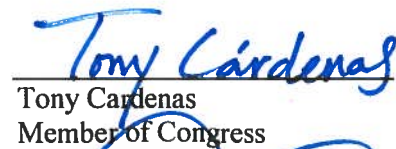

Walter B. Jones
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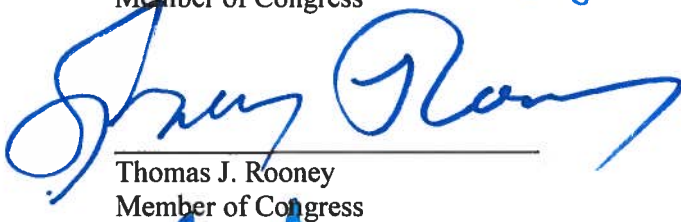

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

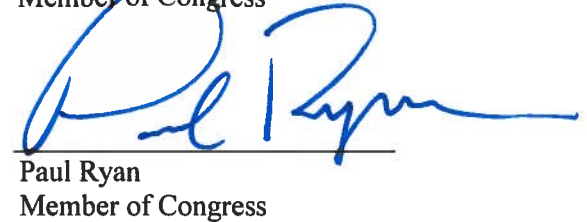

Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

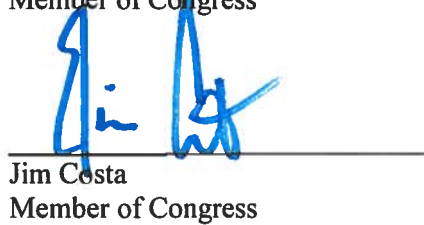

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

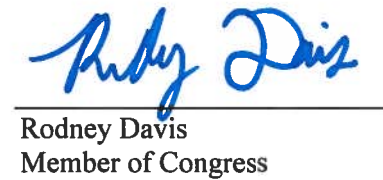

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

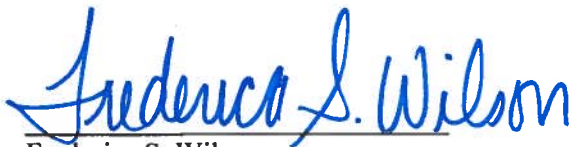

Tony Cardenas
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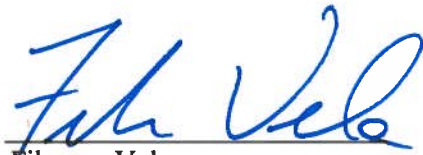

Paul Ryan
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress

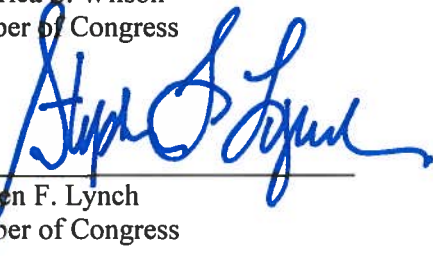

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



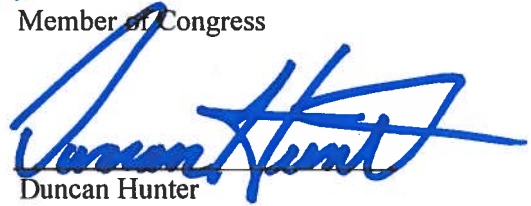
Frederica S. Wilson
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Duncan Hunter
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Raúl R. Labrador
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Louie Gohmert
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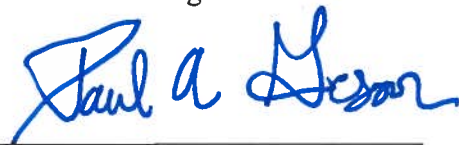
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Dan Benishek
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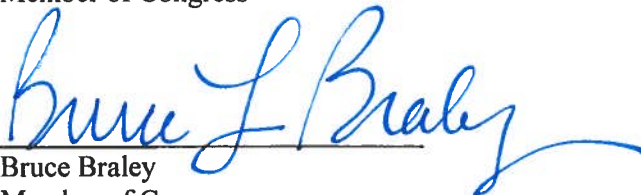
Aaron Schock
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Paul Gosar
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Richard Hanna
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Bruce Braley
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Richard Nugent
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Dennis Ross
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Steve Pearce
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Sam Johnson
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Ron Barber
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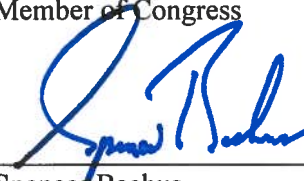
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



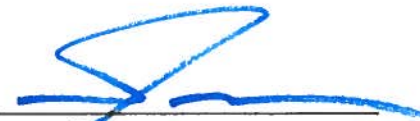
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



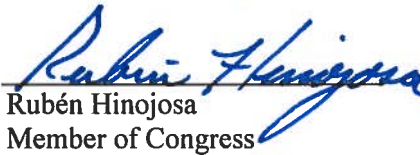
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
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Brad Schneider
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Rubén Hinojosa
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Lamar Smith
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Luke Messer
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Bill Johnson
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