

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

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dr. Cathie Woteki  
Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Under Secretary Woteki:

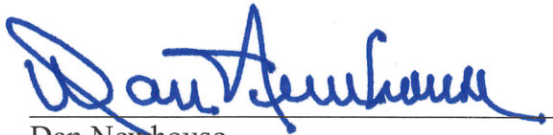
We write to request your support for an industry that has been a model of U.S. economic growth over the past decade. The brewing industry sustains millions of jobs in the U.S., and especially through the emerging popularity of craft brewing, has boosted domestic sales and exports, and supports a growing supply chain of U.S. farmers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers. U.S. hop cultivation is central to this industry, and we request USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) increase its commitment to hop-related research to reflect the growing cultural and economic importance of this crop for FY 2017.

Overall, the brewing industry generated more than \$250 billion in economic activity in 2014, directly and indirectly employing over 1.75 million Americans. This activity is only sustained through a healthy, stable hop market. Hop growers face a variety of challenges, including mites, mildews, blights, and other pests that harm production. It is estimated that 15 percent of hop yields are lost to pests annually. The increased threat of drought and extreme heat in the Pacific Northwest, where the majority of U.S. commercially-produced hops are grown, is also a persistent threat to crops. The development of new hop varieties that are pest-resistant and climate-tolerant would help growers increase yields while reducing pesticide use. Additionally, while commercial hop production now exists in 29 states, developing new climate-tolerant varieties could help further expand commercial production, putting growers closer to their customers and reducing the threat that a disaster in the Pacific Northwest would affect U.S. and global supplies.

USDA's previous hop research has resulted in the development of varieties that are now universal to the industry. The two largest varieties of U.S.-produced hops, Cascade and Centennial, are products of public hop breeding programs. As consumers continue to demand beers with new aroma and flavor traits, research into developing these characteristics could result in significant benefit to growers, brewers, and the customers they serve.

Given these great advantages that would come with additional research, we request that USDA-ARS increase the commitment to hops genetics/molecular biology from 0.7 full time employees (FTE) to 1.0 FTE, while continuing to fund the existing 1.0 FTE pathology research program for FY 2017. This critical boost in research would result in breakthroughs in hop cultivation that will help sustain the significant growth of this important industry.

Sincerely,



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress



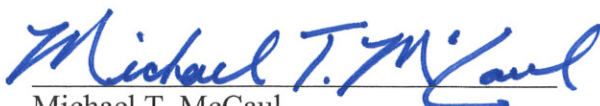
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



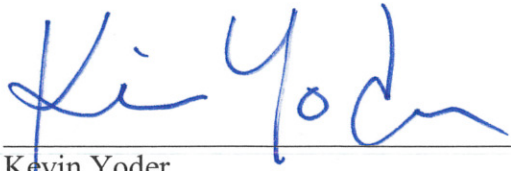
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Scott Lipton  
Member of Congress



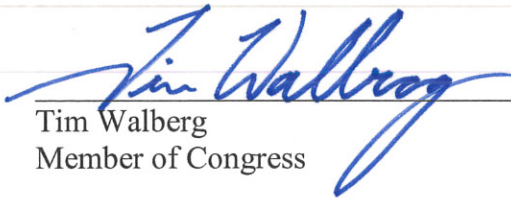
David Scott  
Member of Congress



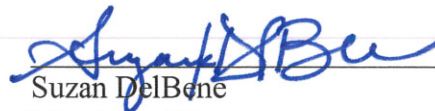
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



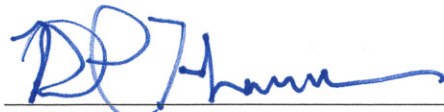
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



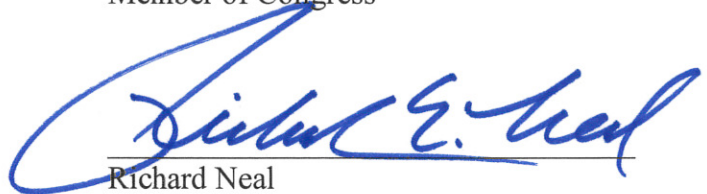
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



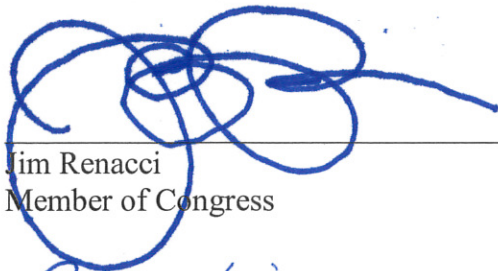
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress



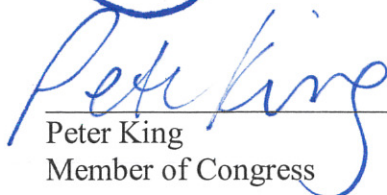
Richard Neal  
Member of Congress



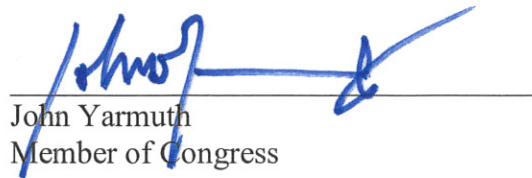
Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress

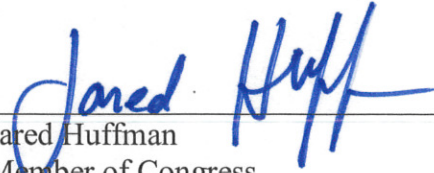


John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

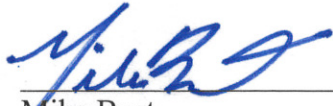




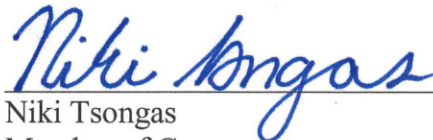
Charles Boustany, M.D.  
Member of Congress



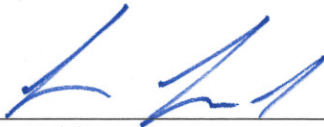
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



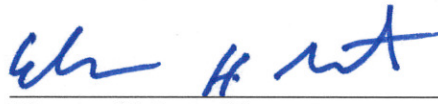
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



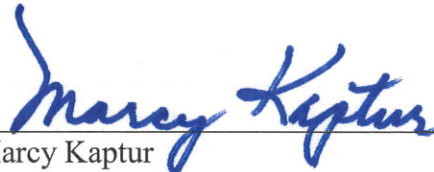
Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



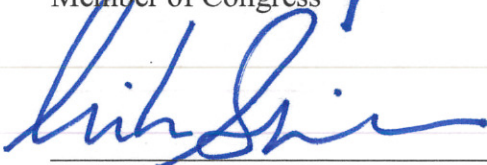
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



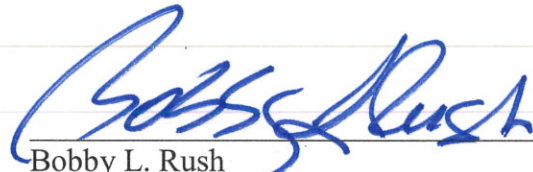
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



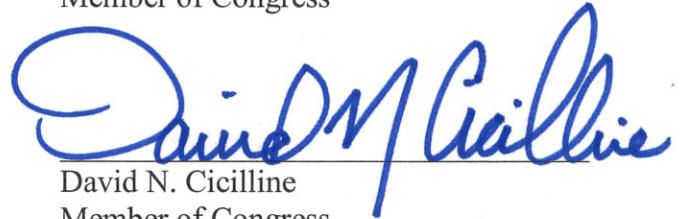
Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



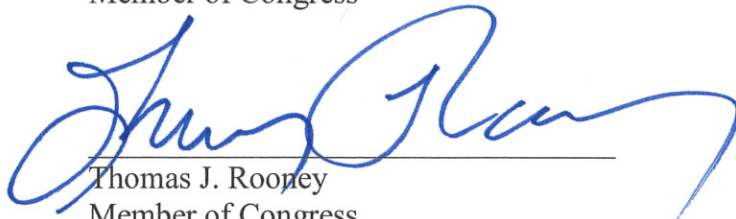
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



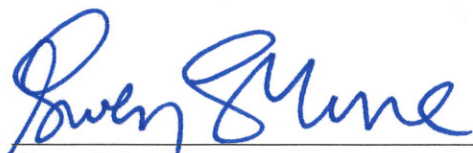
Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



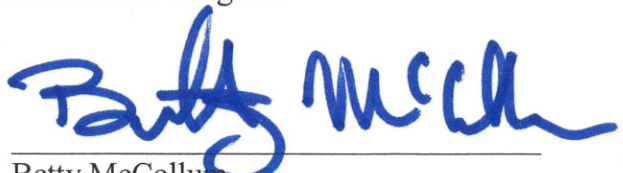
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress



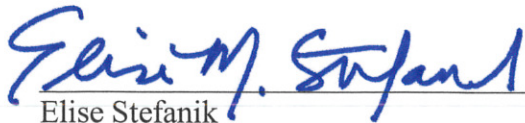
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress




Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



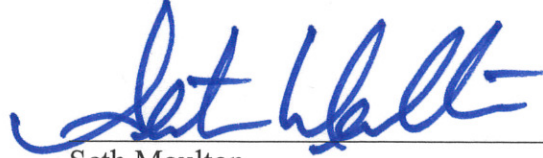
Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



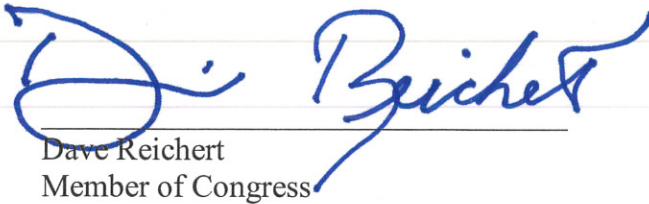
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



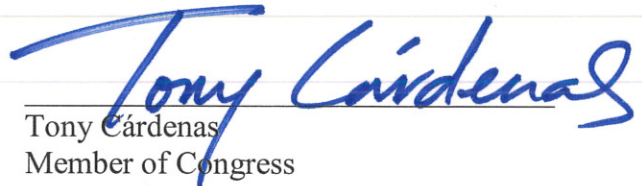
Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



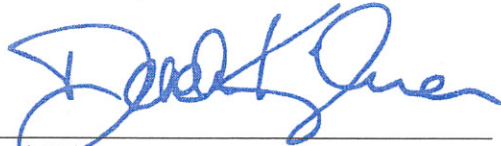
Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress



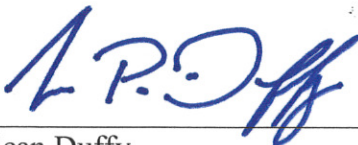
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



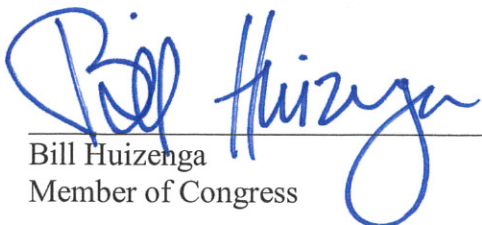
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



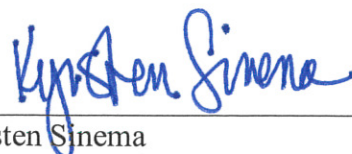
Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress




Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



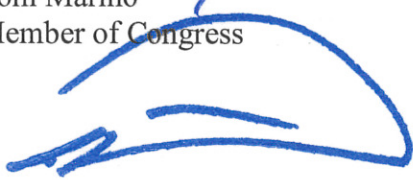
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



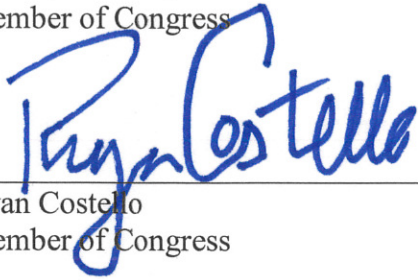
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress



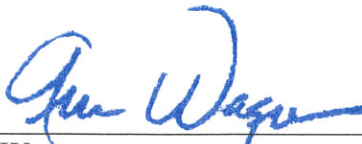
Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



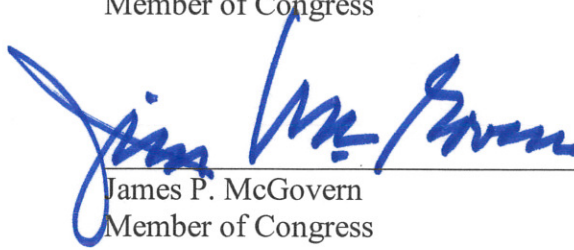
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



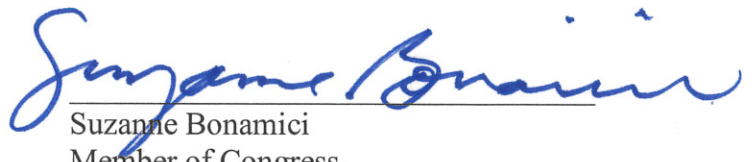
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



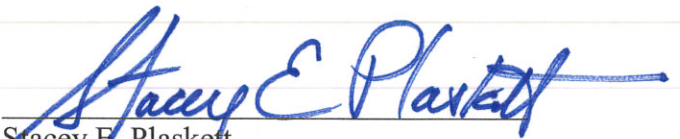
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



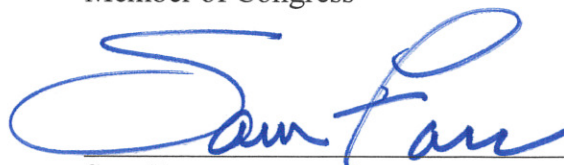
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



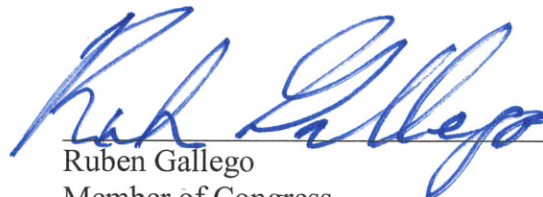
Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

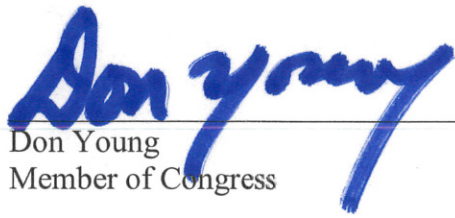


Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

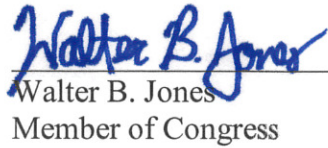


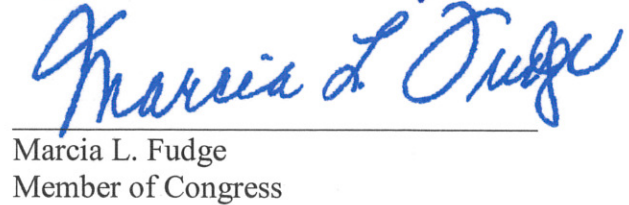
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

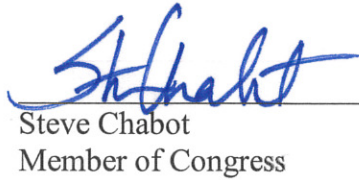


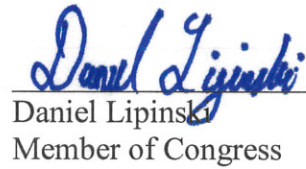
  
Don Young  
Member of Congress

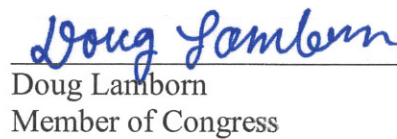
  
G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

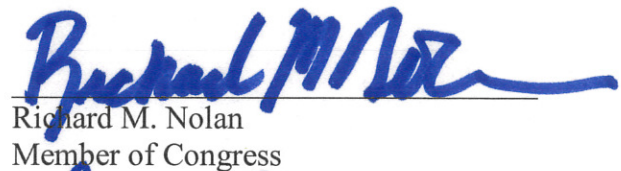
  
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

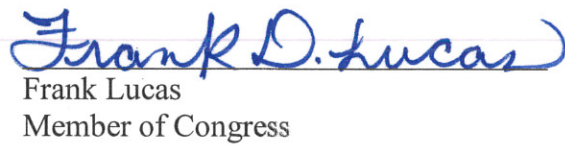
  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

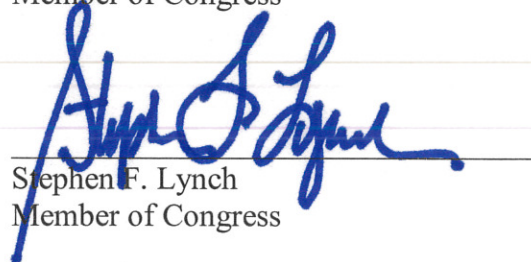
  
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

  
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

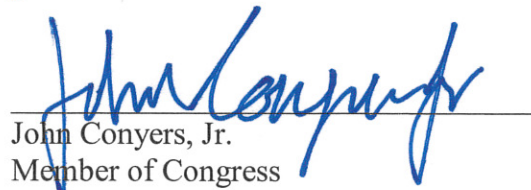
  
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

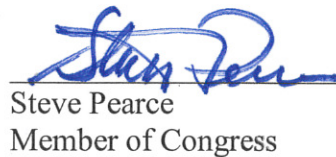
  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

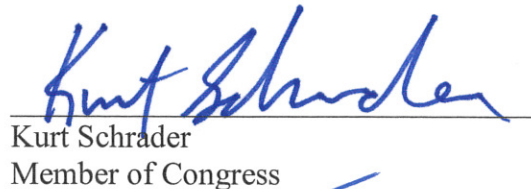
  
Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress

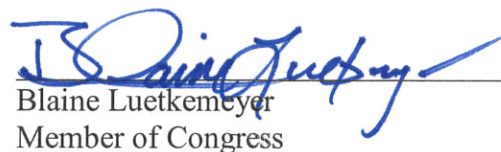
  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

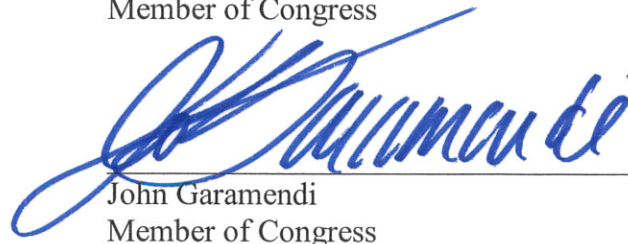
  
Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Pearce  
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Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

  
Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

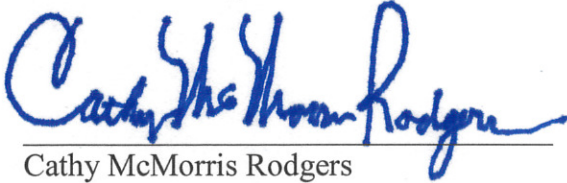
  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



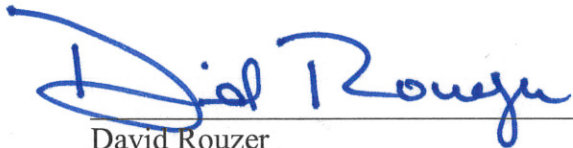
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



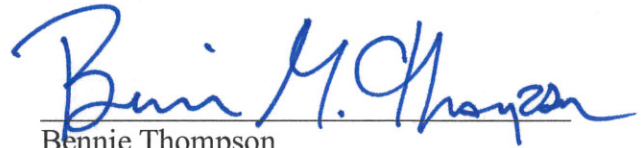
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



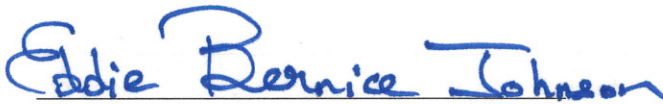
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



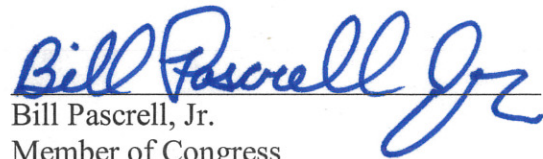
David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



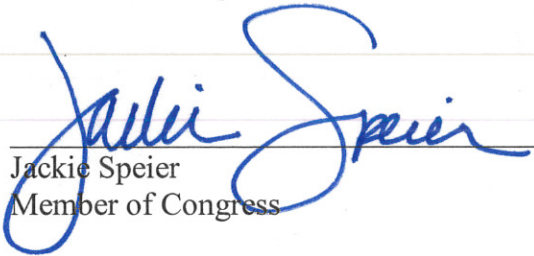
Bennie Thompson  
Member of Congress



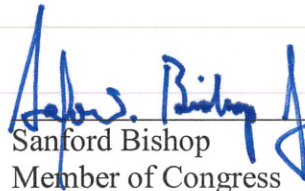
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress