

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2013

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

Dear Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned about the growing trade imbalance between the United States and India, which we believe is due in no small part to policies by the Government of India to favor domestic producers over U.S. exporters. The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade recently held a hearing to explore these issues, out of which came several troubling developments we wish to call to your attention.

Over the last year, Indian policymakers and courts have taken a series of actions designed to block imports by forcing local production of a wide range of manufactured goods. For example, the Indian Government recently demanded that as much as 100 percent of its market for certain information technology and clean energy equipment must be satisfied by firms based domestically.

In particular, the intellectual property (IP) climate has become increasingly challenging in India. U.S. companies have suffered from a whole host of IP issues in areas including information technology, renewable energy, and biopharmaceuticals. For example, last year several biopharmaceutical companies inappropriately had their patents revoked or their appeals denied by the Indian courts to market a variety of life-saving drugs in India. Additionally, the Indian Government issued its first compulsory license (CL) on a stage three liver and kidney cancer drug. It has been reported that additional drugs may be subject to CLs imminently and that the decisions related to these CLs are being improperly driven by an interest in growing the pharmaceutical market in India. These actions by the Indian Government greatly concern us because innovation and the protection of intellectual property are significant driving engines of the U.S. economy.

Nearly 40 million workers – 30 percent of the American workforce – are employed directly or indirectly in intellectual property intensive industries. These industries will dictate U.S. success or failure in the global marketplace, and are increasingly important for the Indian economy as well. On a bipartisan basis, we understand that the U. S. must demonstrate strong leadership in protecting IP rights and ensure that our trading partners pursue high standards of IP protection. The chilling effect on global R&D investment, both in the US and in India, as a result of India's IP policies could have a significant negative impact on jobs and investment in the United States.

Moreover, India is a thought leader among emerging countries, and others have already begun emulating India's IP policies. The U.S. Government must send a strong signal to the Indian Government that these actions are inconsistent with India's international obligations, set a bad precedent, and undermine the culture of innovation that Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh himself has been promoting.

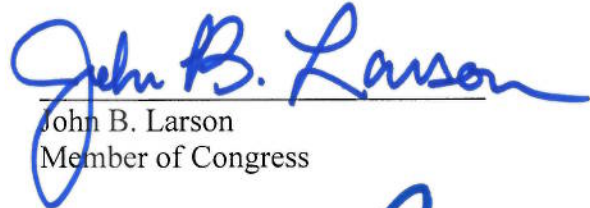
India is a highly-valued strategic partner and we support strong, continued growth in the trade and investment relationship. In an effort to continue this positive trajectory, the Indian Government should consider constructive ways to address the deteriorating trade and investment climate in India. Therefore, we urge you to make sure these issues are raised at the highest levels of the Indian government and that they are a top priority at the upcoming U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue and other bilateral and multilateral meetings.

We appreciate your continued attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



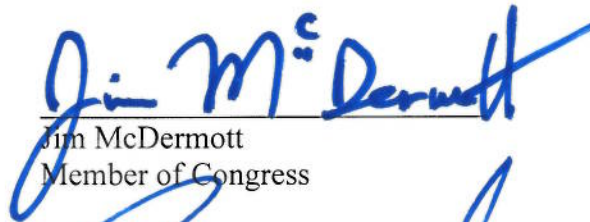
Sam Johnson
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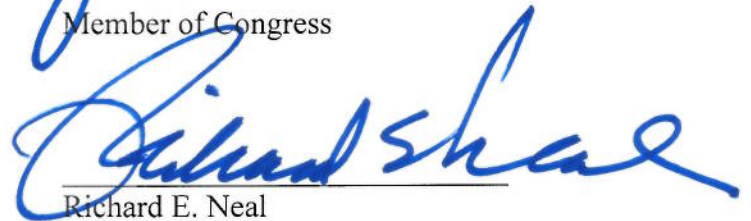
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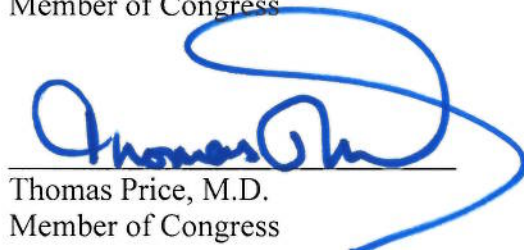

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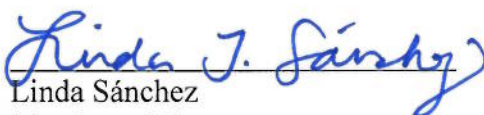

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Adam Schiff
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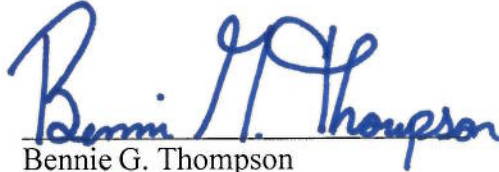
Kenny Marchant
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Dan Kildee
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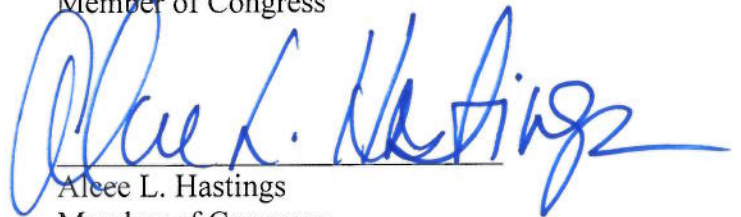
Diane Black
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Bennie G. Thompson
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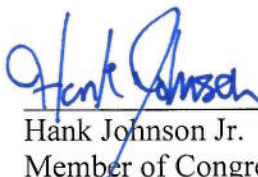
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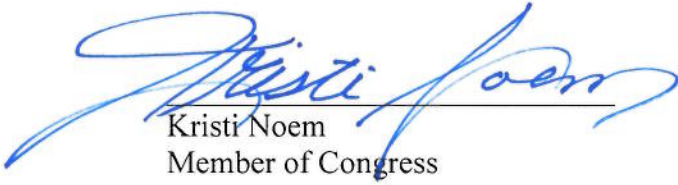
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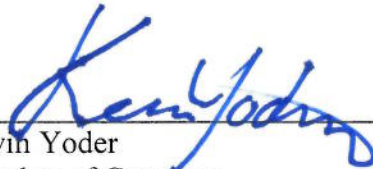
G.K. Butterfield
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Renee Ellmers
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John Barrow
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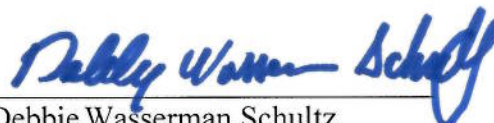
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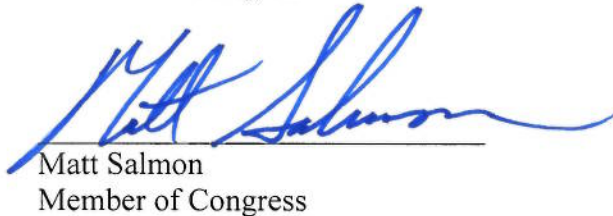

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

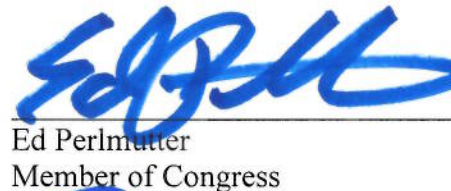

Rodney Frelinghuysen
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Member of Congress

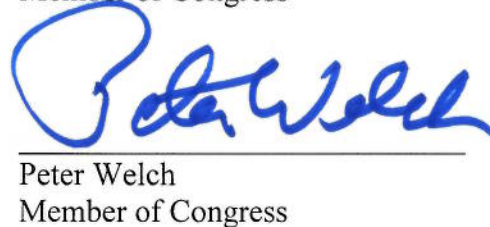

Ed Whitfield
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Matt Salmon
Member of Congress

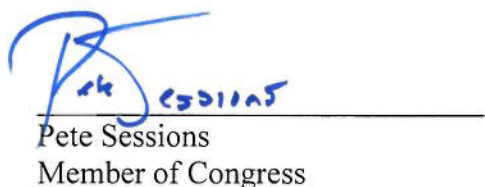

Ed Perlmutter
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Austin Scott
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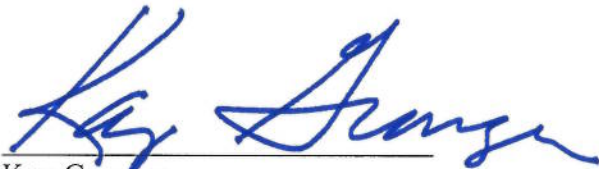

Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

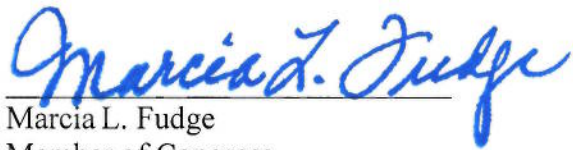

Tony Cárdenas
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Pete Sessions
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André Carson
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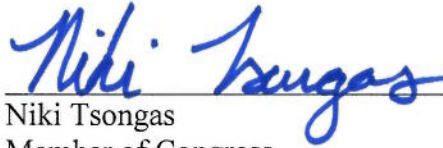
Kay Granger
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Marcia L. Fudge
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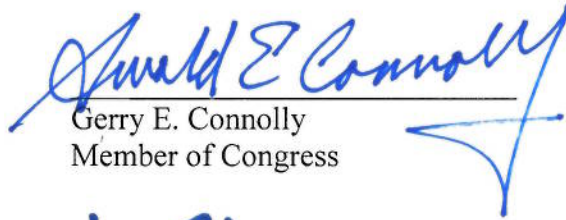
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



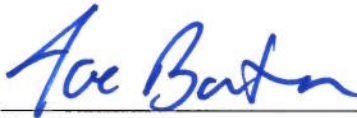
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



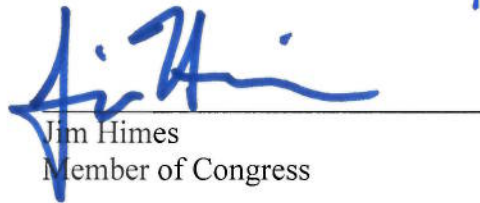
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Jim Himes
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Marsha Blackburn
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Mike Quigley
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Todd Rokita
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Kurt Schrader
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Gus M. Bilirakis
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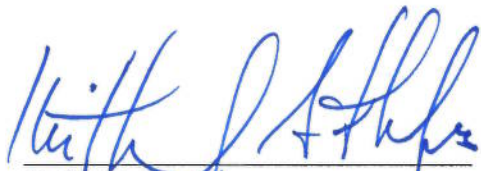
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Ted Deutch
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Judy Chu
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Trent Franks
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Denny Heck
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
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K. Michael Conaway
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Bill Owens
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Cedric L. Richmond
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John Kline
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress


Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress



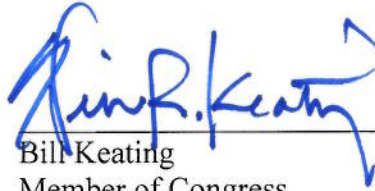
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



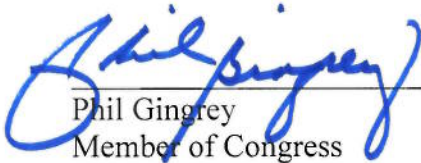
David Cicilline
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Michele Bachmann
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Bill Keating
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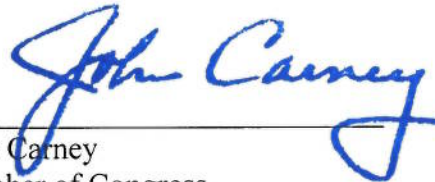
Phil Gingrey
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S. Brett Guthrie
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Robin Kelly
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Michael T. McCaul
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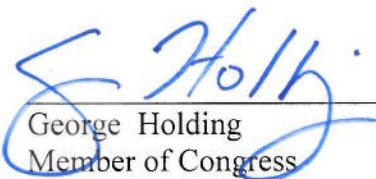
Terri A. Sewell
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Steve Chabot
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Suzan DelBene
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George Holding
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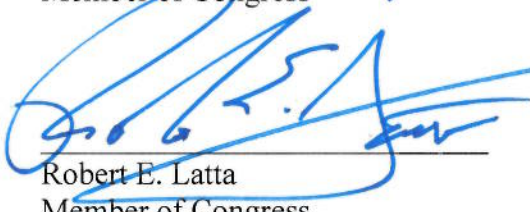
Jim Moran
Member of Congress



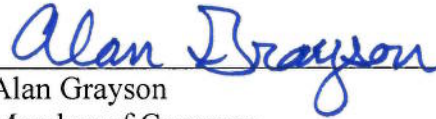
Bill Cassidy
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Paul Cook
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Robert E. Latta
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Alan Grayson
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David "Phil" Roe
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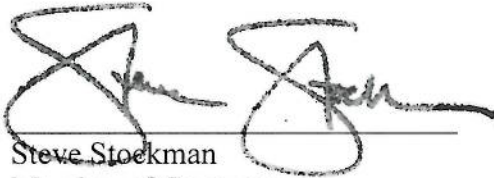
Brad Schneider
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Trey Radel
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Juan Vargas
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Steve Stockman
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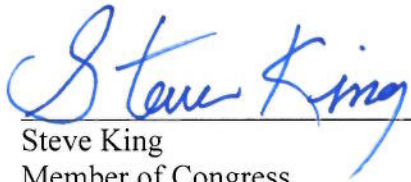
John Delaney
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Blake Farenthold
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Elizabeth Esty
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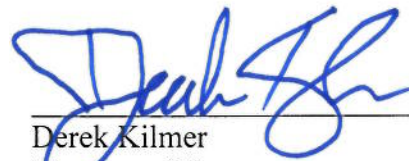
Steve King
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Hakeem S. Jeffries
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Tom Marino
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Derek Kilmer
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Andy Barr
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Sean P. Duffy
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Dan Maffei
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Mike G. Fitzpatrick
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Patrick E. Murphy
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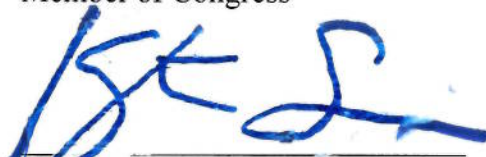

Bill Flores
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Gary Peters
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Ralph M. Hall
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Mark Pocan
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Marlin Stutzman
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Kyristen Sinema
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Chris Gibson
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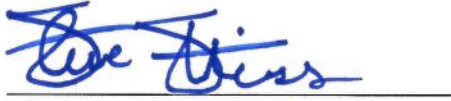

Marc Veasey
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Bill Johnson
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Billy Long
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Patrick Meehan
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Steve Stivers
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Mo Brooks
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Tom Cotton
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Walter B. Jones
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Randy Neugebauer
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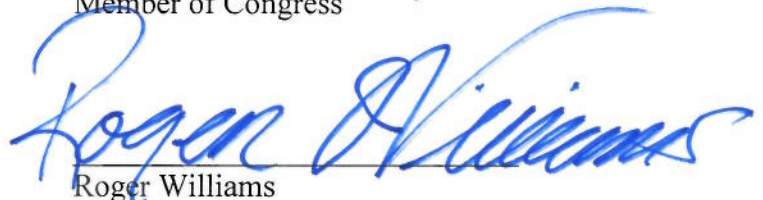

Randy Weber
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Ann Wagner
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Jackie Walorski
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Roger Williams
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Joyce Beatty
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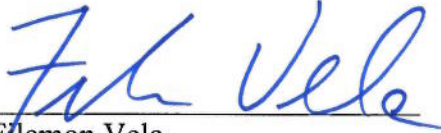

Scott Tipton
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John A. Culberson
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Pete P. Gallego
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

CC: John Kerry, Secretary of State

CC: Michael B. Froman, Deputy National Security Advisor