

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

We write to express our serious concerns regarding the impact of impending cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments, scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2017. Medicaid DSH payments allow hospitals nationwide to treat our most vulnerable Americans. We urge you to take swift action to delay these harmful cuts for at least two years.

President Ronald Reagan and Congress created Medicaid DSH payments to sustain hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of low-income and uninsured patients. In treating those who have nowhere else to turn, these hospitals incur substantial uncompensated costs. Furthermore, these same hospitals typically operate on very narrow, or even negative, margins. Medicaid DSH payments allow them to continue serving our constituents. Medicaid DSH payments not only support hospitals in cities across the country, these payments are also especially important to rural hospitals, which often face added financial burdens.

Through bipartisan efforts, Congress has repeatedly recognized the importance of Medicaid DSH payments, and passed legislation to delay cuts to the program:


- The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 delayed the cuts, scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, for two years until FY 2016;
- The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 delayed the FY 2016 reduction; and
- The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) delayed the scheduled FY 2017 cuts by one additional year.

Should Congress fail to delay the cuts scheduled to begin on October 1, safety net hospitals will face a financial shortfall of \$2 billion in FY 2018. These cuts will grow to \$8 billion by 2024. Our nation's hospitals cannot sustain losses of this magnitude. Institutions will be forced to shutter, leaving our constituents without a safety net.

We ask that you work swiftly to delay these cuts for at least two fiscal years, through 2020, or until a more sustainable, permanent solution is reached. This delay will ensure that hospitals can keep their doors open and, most importantly, continue to care for the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



John A. Culberson
Member of Congress



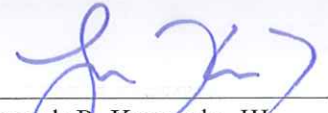
Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



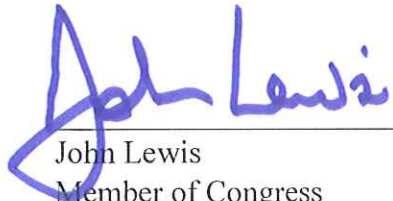
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



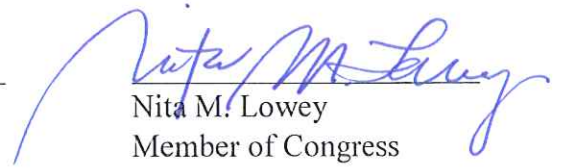
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



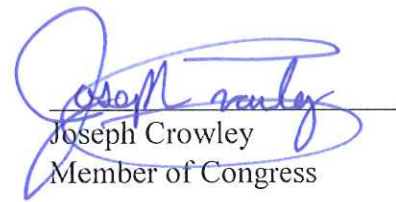
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



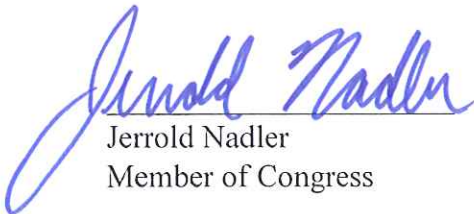
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



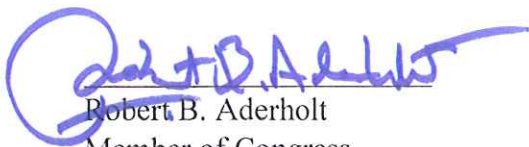
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



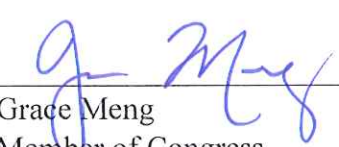
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



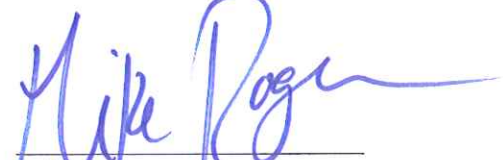
Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

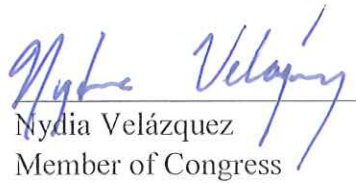


Grace Meng
Member of Congress

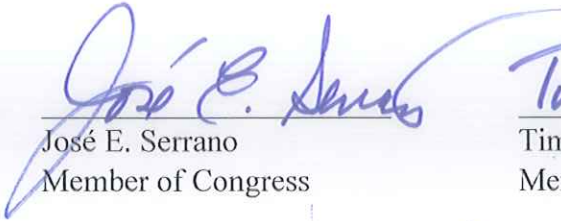


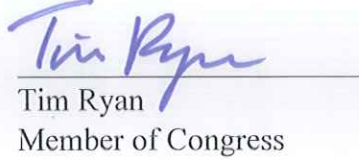
Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress

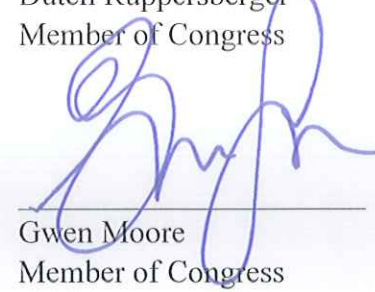

John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress


Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

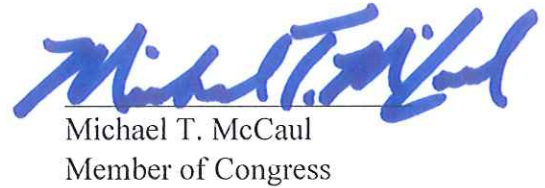

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

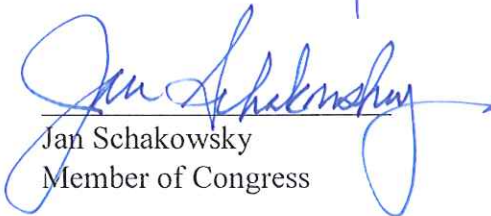

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

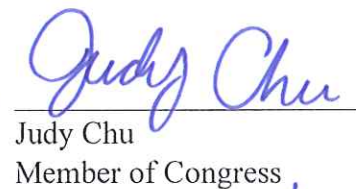

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

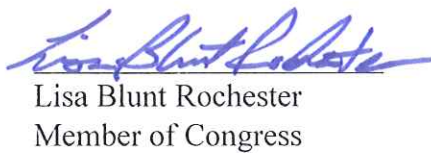

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

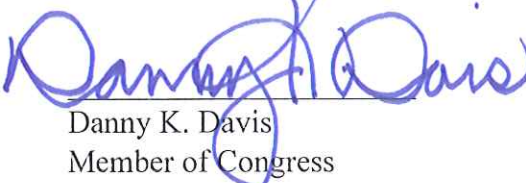

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

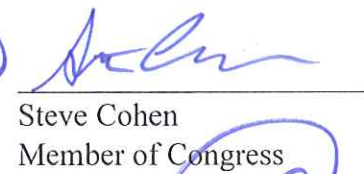

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

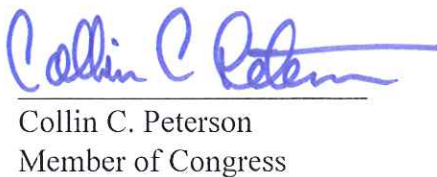

Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

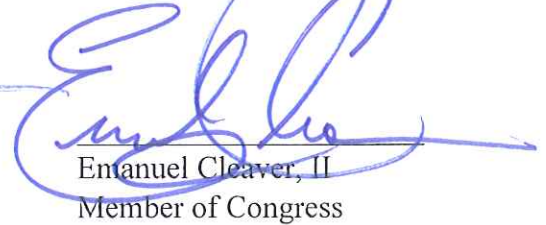

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

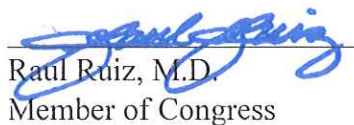

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

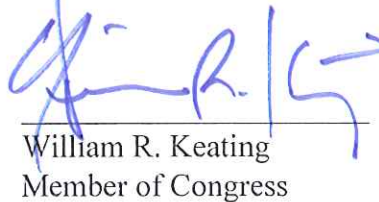

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

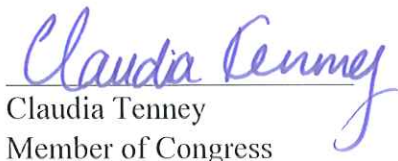
Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

David Joyce
Member of Congress

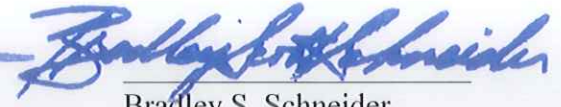

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress


Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

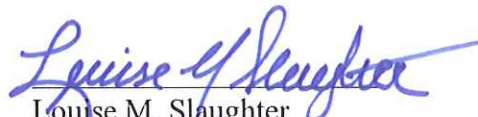

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

A. 
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress


David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

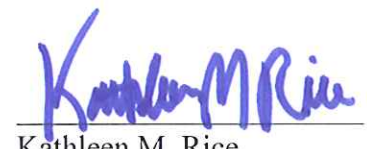

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

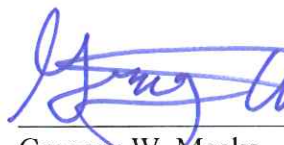

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

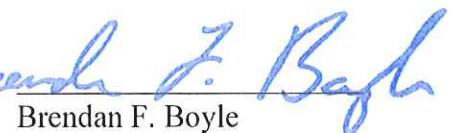

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress


Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

John J. Faso
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Roger W. Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Val Demings
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

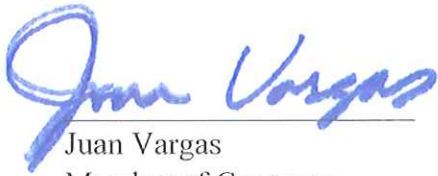
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

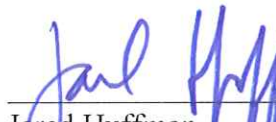

Will Hurd
Member of Congress


Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress


James Comer
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress


Mike Coffman
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

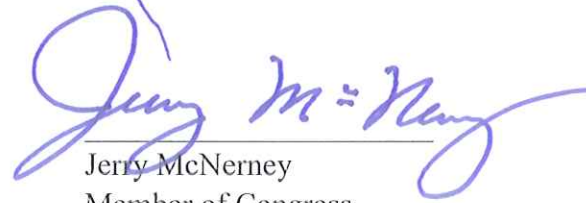

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



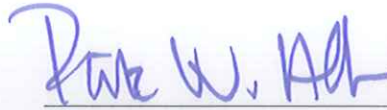
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



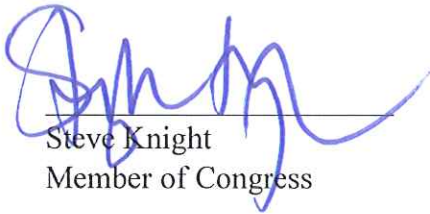
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Steve Knight
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



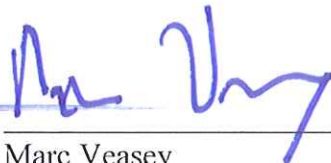
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



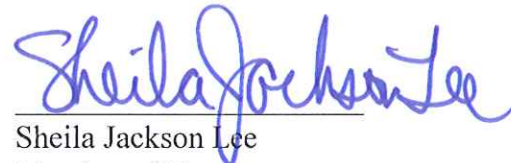
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



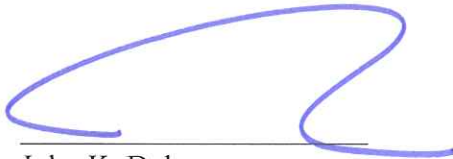
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



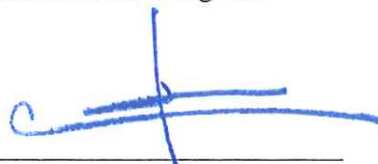
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



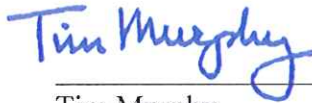
Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Martha Roby
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



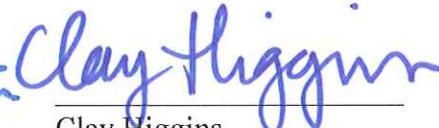
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



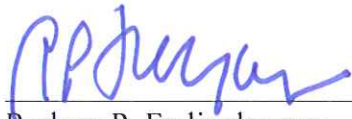
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress




Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



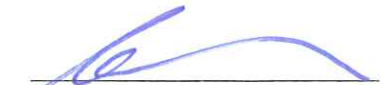
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress




Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress




Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



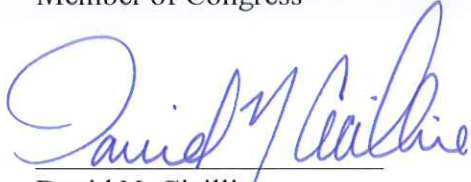
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



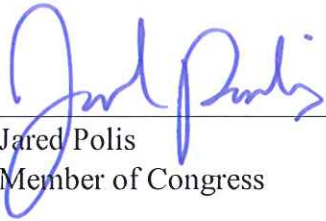
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



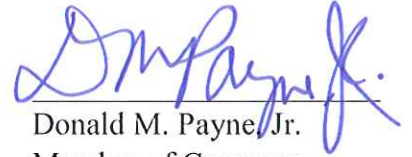
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



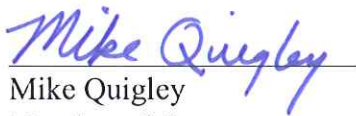
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

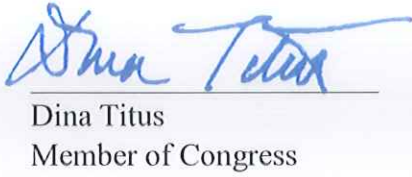


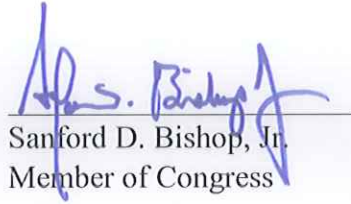
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

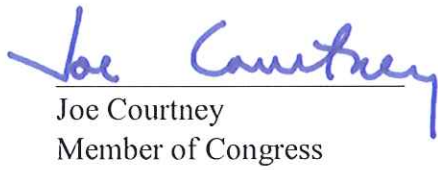

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

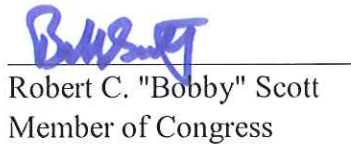

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

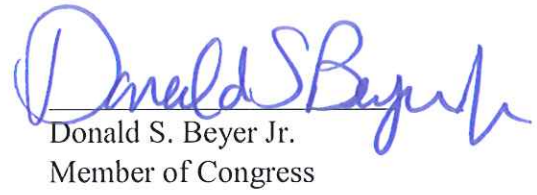

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

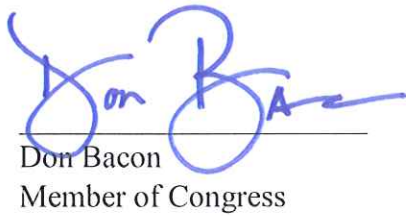

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

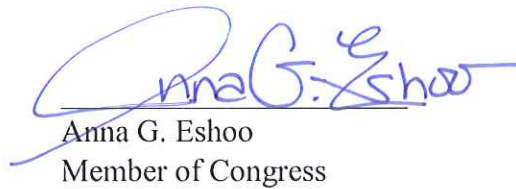

Lou Correa
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


Don Bacon
Member of Congress


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Minority Whip
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance