

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:

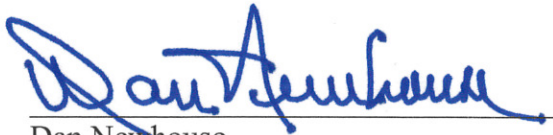
We write to request your support for an industry that has been a model of U.S. economic growth over the past decade. The brewing industry sustains millions of jobs in the U.S., and especially through the emerging popularity of craft brewing, has boosted domestic sales and exports, and supports a growing 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



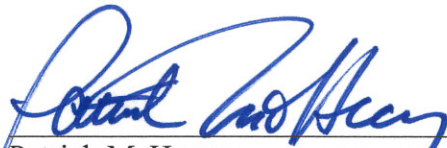
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



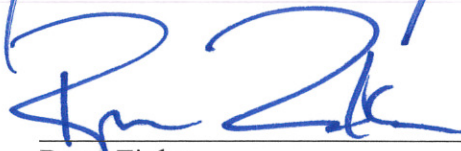
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



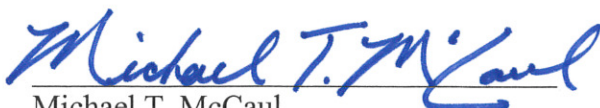
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



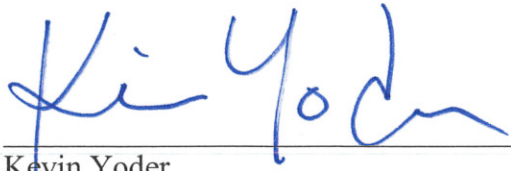
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



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



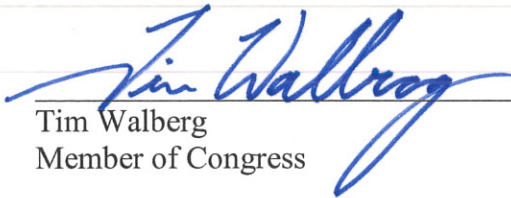
David Scott
Member of Congress



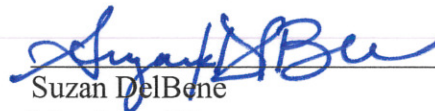
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



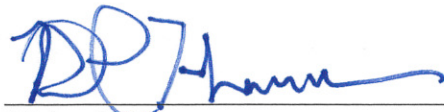
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



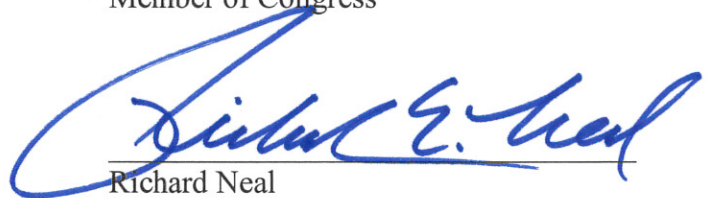
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



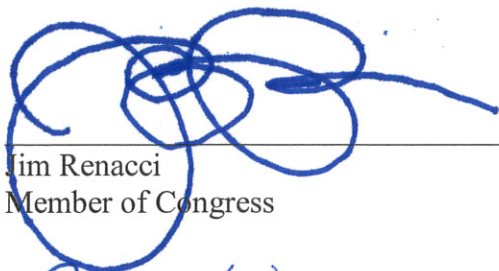
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



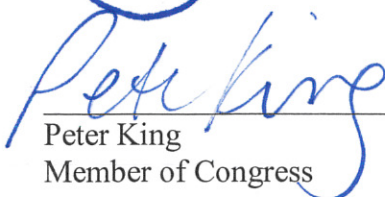
Richard Neal
Member of Congress



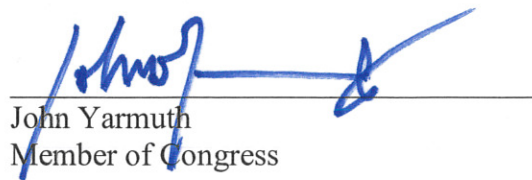
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



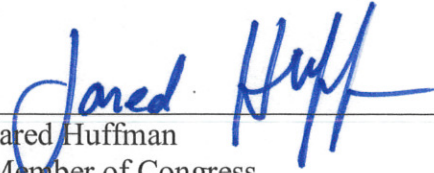
Peter King
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



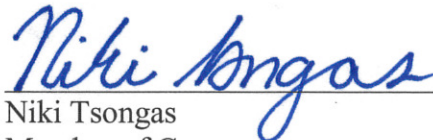
Charles Boustany, M.D.
Member of Congress



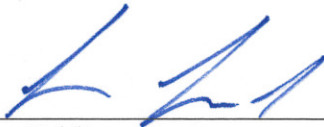
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



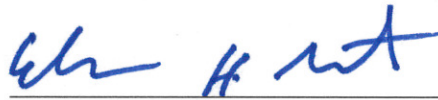
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



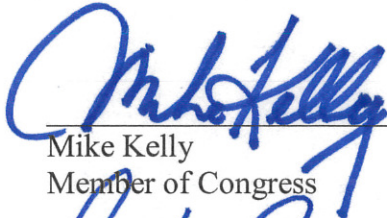
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



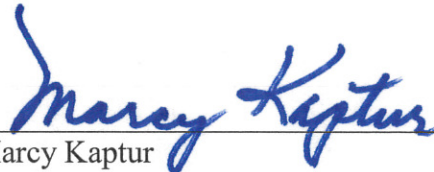
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



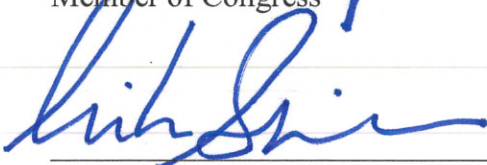
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



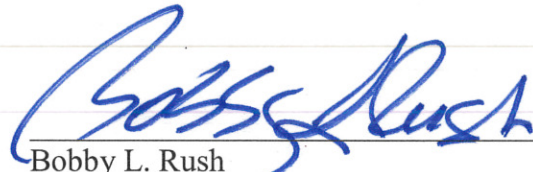
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



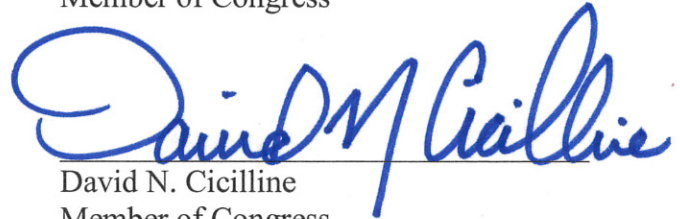
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



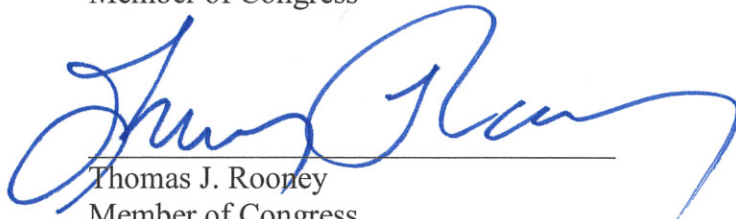
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



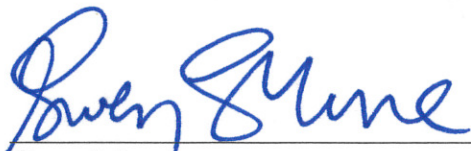
Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



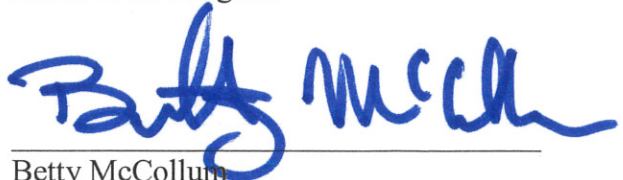
Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress



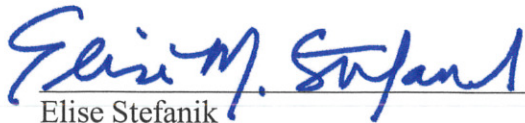
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



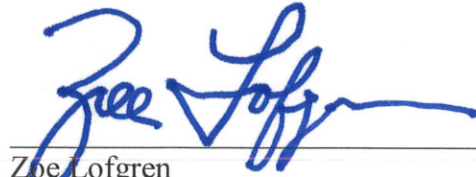
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



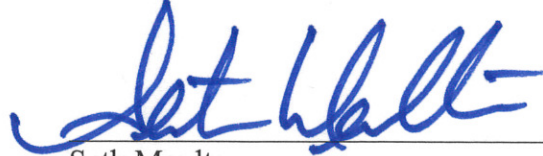
Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



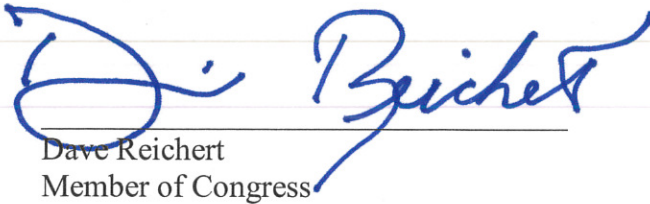
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



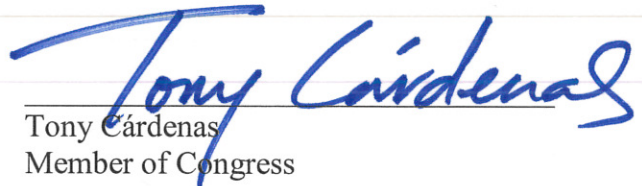
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



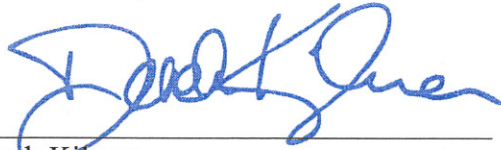
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



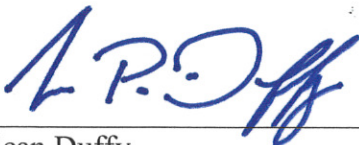
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



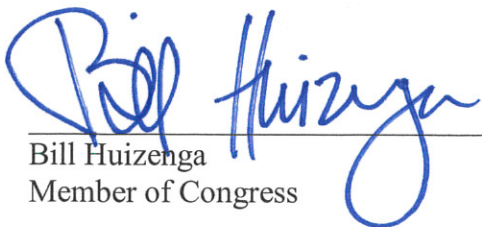
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



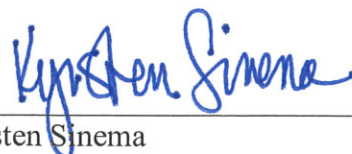
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress




Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



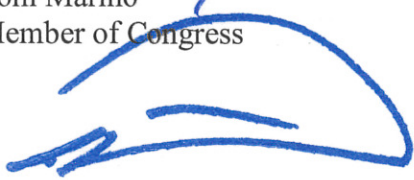
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



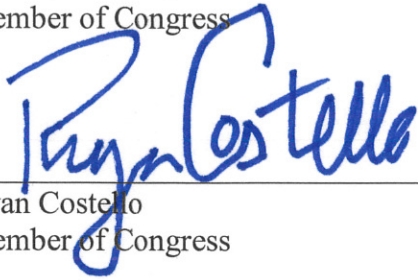
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



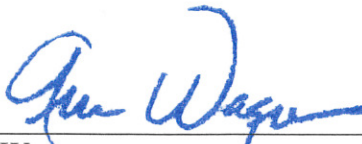
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



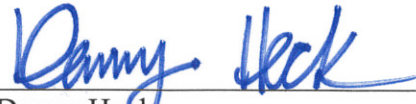
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



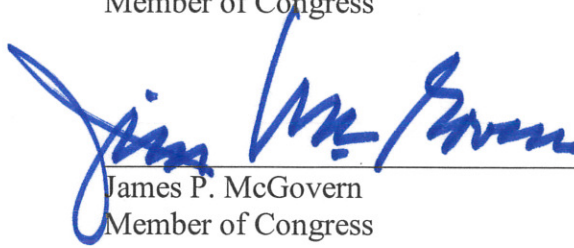
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



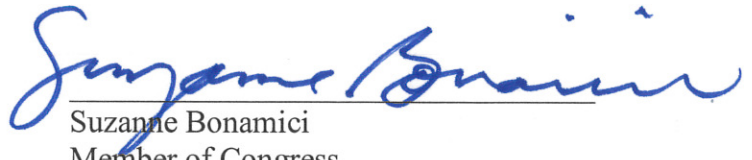
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



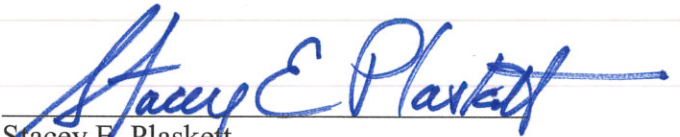
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



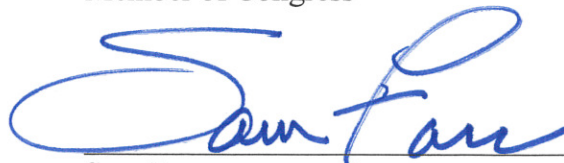
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



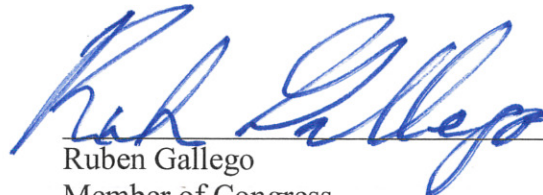
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



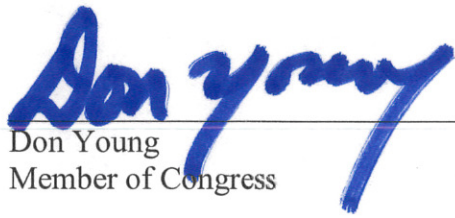
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



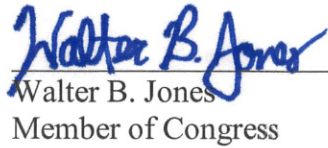
Sam Farr
Member of Congress

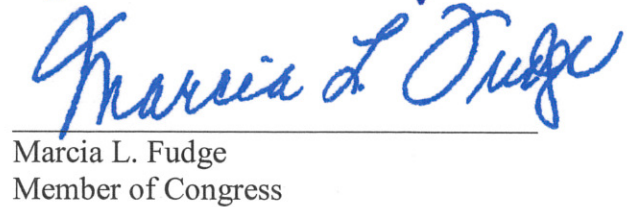


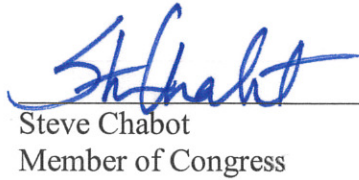
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

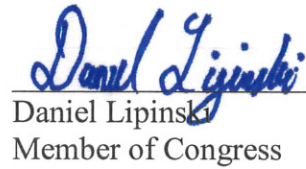

Don Young
Member of Congress

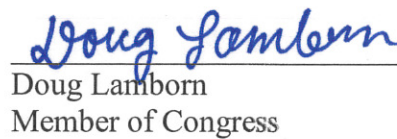

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

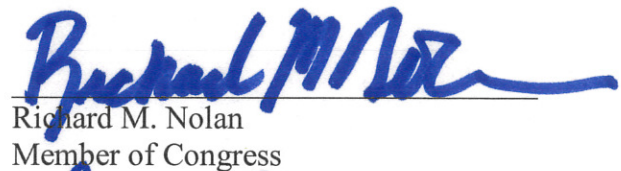

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

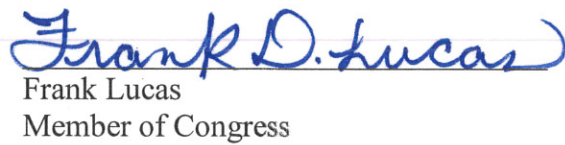

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

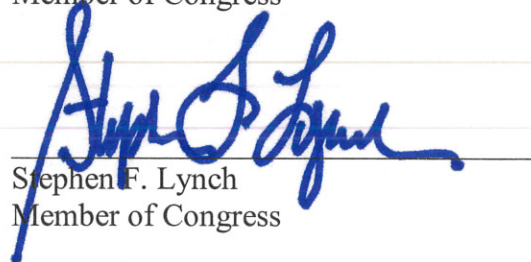

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress


Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

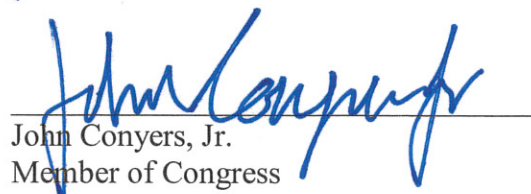

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

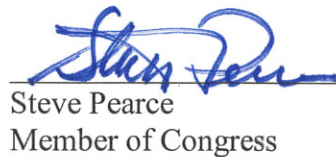

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

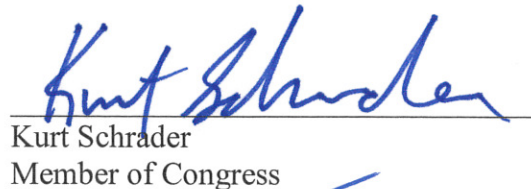

Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

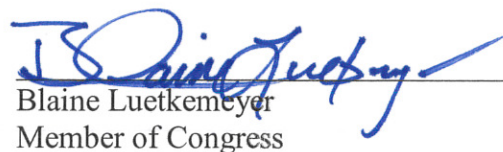

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

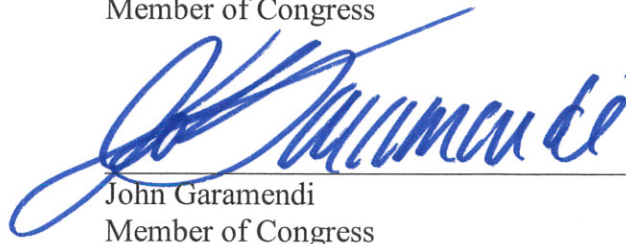

Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Steve Pearce
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

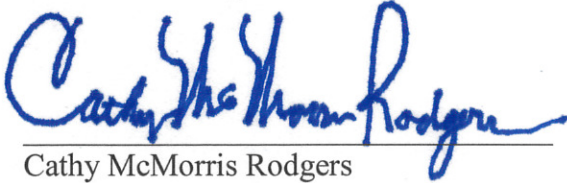

John Garamendi
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



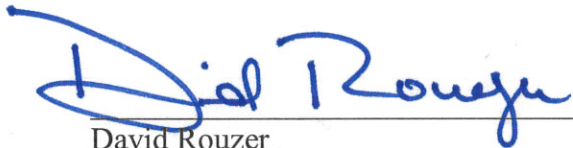
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



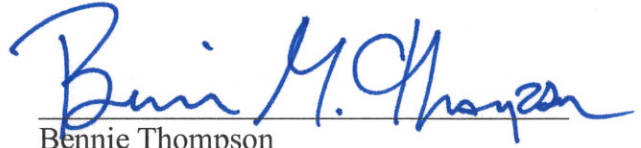
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



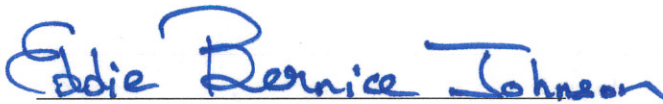
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



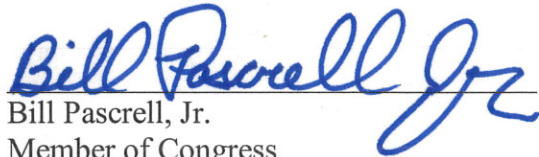
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



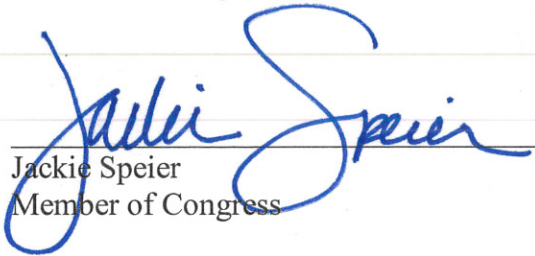
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



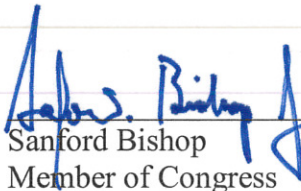
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



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