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CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC
STEERING & POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4500

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations bill by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP households are among the most vulnerable in the country. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), nearly 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

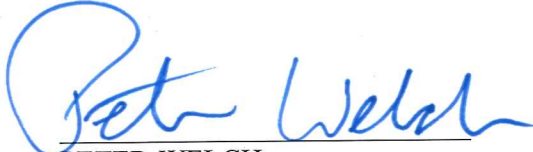
We understand the ongoing discretionary budget challenges. However, we are deeply concerned that funding for LIHEAP has declined more than 30 percent in recent years. Moreover, the number of households eligible for assistance continues to exceed available funding. According to NEADA, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 15.5 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2015, from 8.1 million to 6.8 million. About 1.3 million poor households have lost access to critical LIHEAP assistance and struggle to pay for the basic necessity of home energy in addition to other essentials like food and medicine.

Funding has declined by almost \$1.7 billion since FY 2010, yet energy costs have remained high, reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance. Recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by about \$107 since 2010, from \$520 in FY 2010 to \$413 in FY 2015. The average LIHEAP grant is estimated to cover less than half of the average home heating costs for a household this winter, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

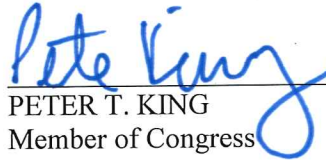
As you finalize your FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program and restore funding to this program to a level no less than \$4.7 billion.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

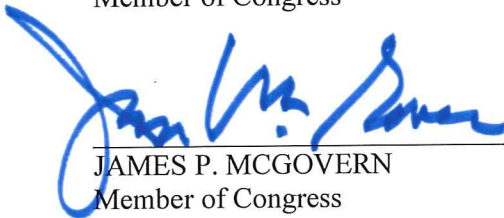
Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



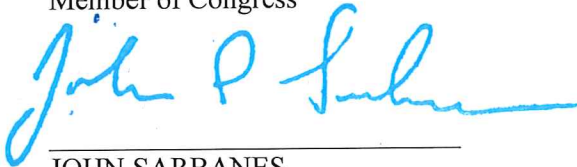
PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress



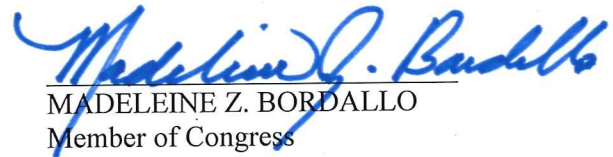
ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



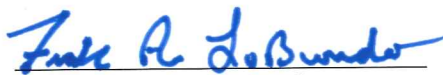
TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



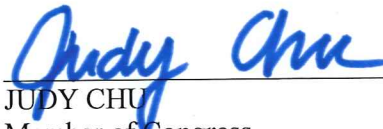
JOHN SARBANES
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
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JUDY CHU
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LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ
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Linda T. Sanchez

LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
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Timothy J. Walz

TIMOTHY J. WALZ
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Nydia M. Velázquez

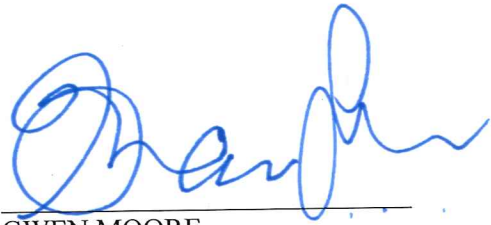
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
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Stephen F. Lynch

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



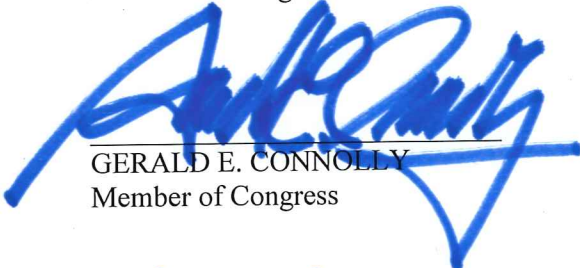
GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
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GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



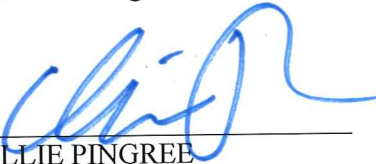
GREGORY W. MEEKS
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BOBBY L. RUSH
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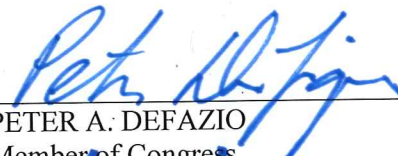
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
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ANDRÉ CARSON
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PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



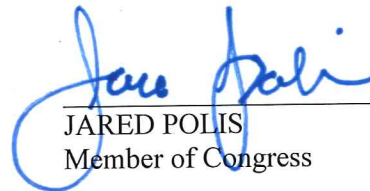
RICK LARSEN
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JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



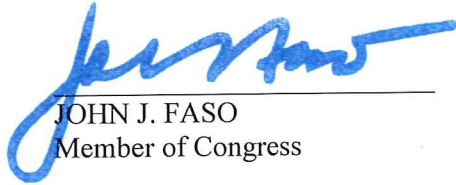
JARED POLIS
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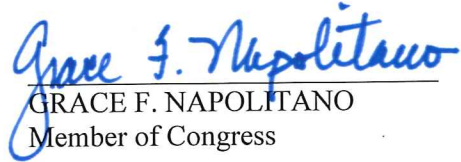
NIKI TSONGAS
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JOHN J. FASO
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GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
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HAKEEM JEFFRIES
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JUAN VARGAS
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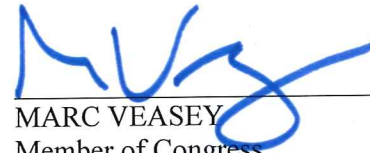
CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



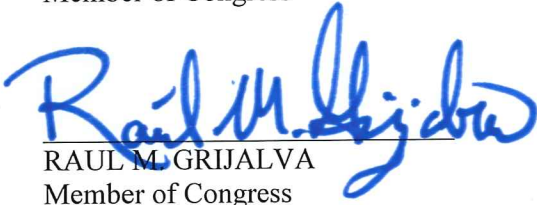
JENNIFER GONZALEZ-COLÓN
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MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



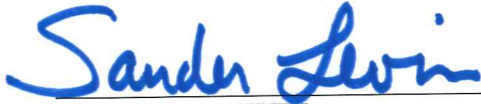
BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress



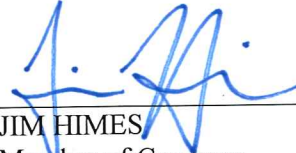
MICHAEL CAPUANO
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress



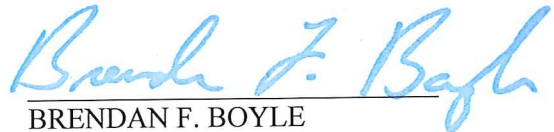
SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress



BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress




BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress



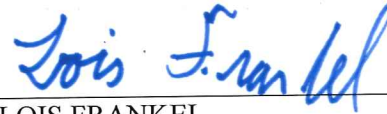
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress



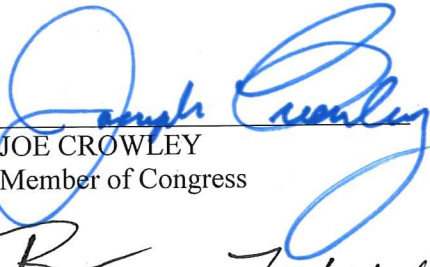
CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



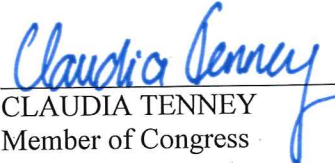
JOE CROWLEY
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



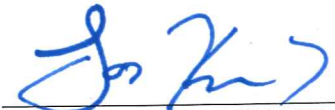
BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



CLAUDIA TENNEY
Member of Congress

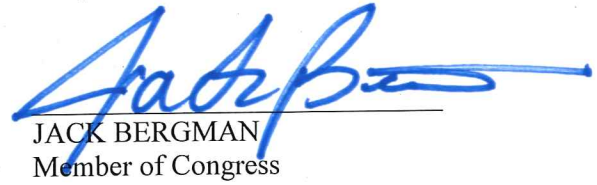


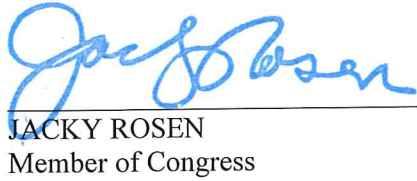
FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



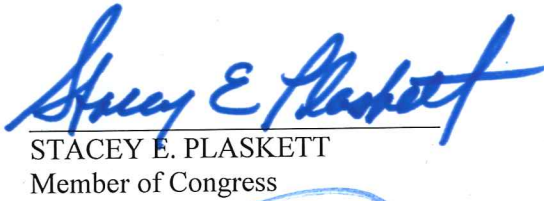
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III
Member of Congress

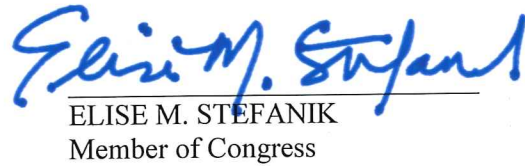

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

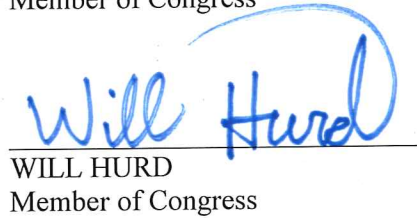

JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress


JACKY ROSEN
Member of Congress


RAUL RUIZ
Member of Congress


STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress

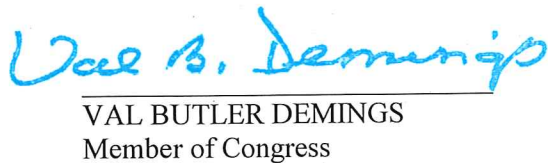

ELISE M. STEFANIK
Member of Congress

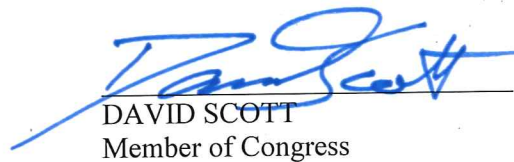

WILL HURD
Member of Congress


WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress


A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress


MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress


VAL BUTLER DEMINGS
Member of Congress


DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress


ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress


JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress


JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress


TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZÁLEZ
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



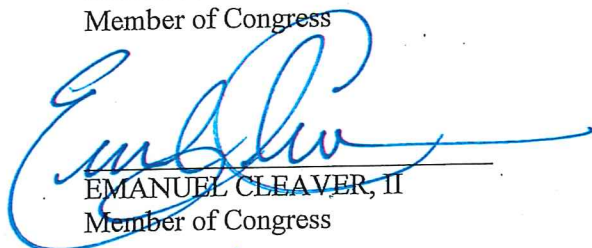
COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress



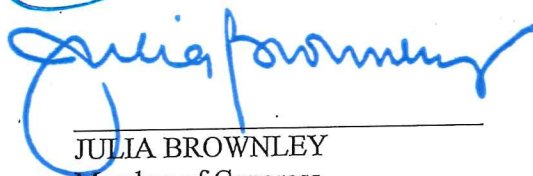
DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress



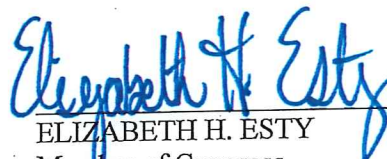
JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



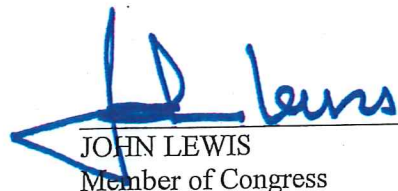
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



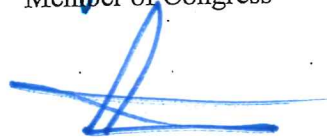
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



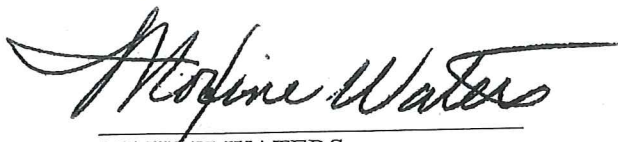
ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



RYAN A. COSTELLO
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson

FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

DWIGHT EVANS
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

Tom Marino

TOM MARINO
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter

ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
Member of Congress

Al Green

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

Al Lawson

AL LAWSON
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

ALAN LOWENTHAL
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Daniel W. Lipinski

DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

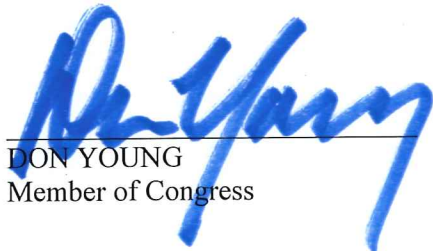
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



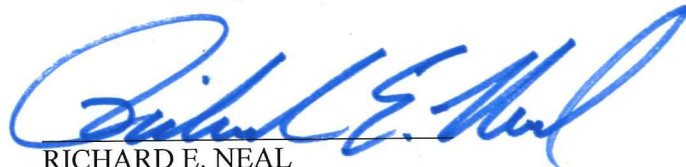
DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress



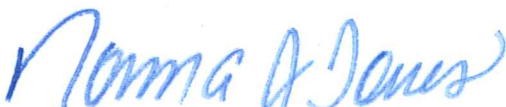
GENE GREEN
Member of Congress



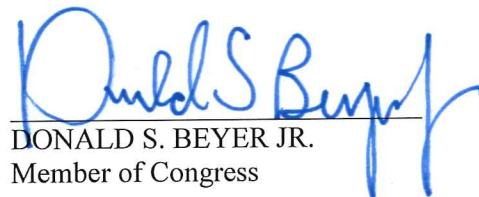
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



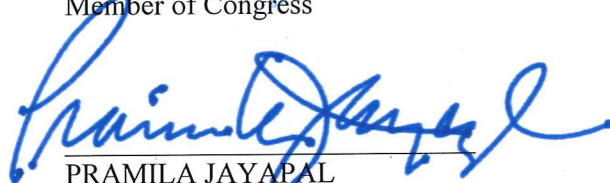
G. K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress



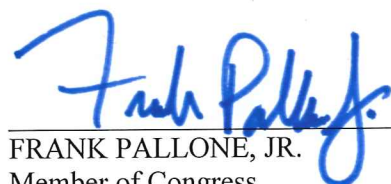
DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



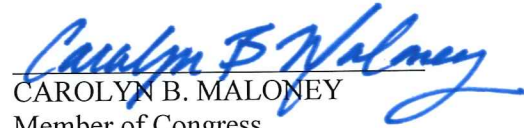
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress




BETO O'ROURKE
Member of Congress





SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


DANIEL M. DONOVAN JR.
Member of Congress


ALMA S. ADAMS
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress

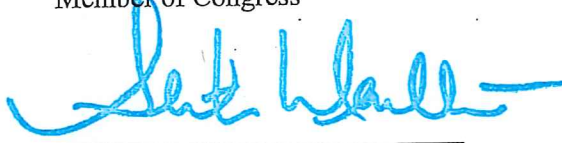

TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress



AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
Member of Congress


NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress


GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON
Member of Congress

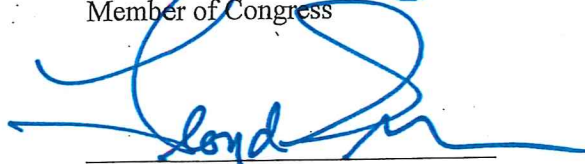

DENNY HECK
Member of Congress


SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

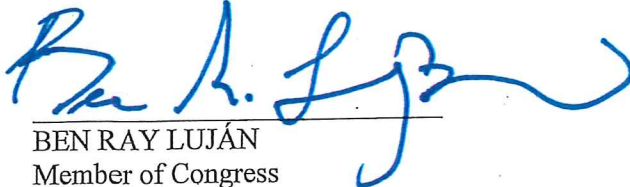

THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress


EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress


LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress

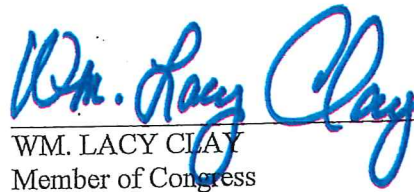

JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress


BEN RAY LUJÁN
Member of Congress

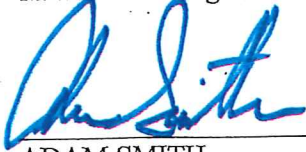

COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



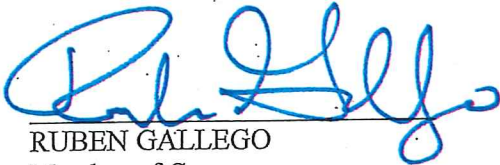
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress



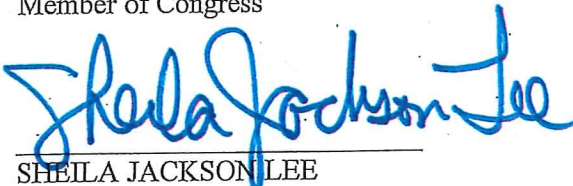
BRUCE POLIQUIN
Member of Congress



DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress



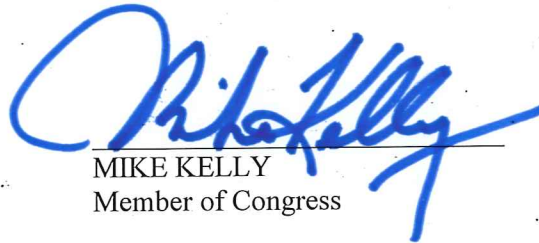
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON JR.
Member of Congress



MIKE KELLY
Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress