

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

As Members of Congress committed to a comprehensive domestic energy strategy, we encourage the Department of the Interior (DOI) to proceed with a new Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 that establishes a rigorous lease sale schedule in the Gulf of Mexico, but also expands opportunity for development to areas not included in the last plan – such as the vast acreage that was opened in 2008 when both the Presidential and Legislative moratoria on offshore drilling expired. A broad, bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives and the American public have long supported increased development of our nation's OCS resources. This commitment has been repeatedly demonstrated by passage of legislation that expands access to these new areas, while continuing leasing in existing areas. We wish to see a Five Year Outer Continental Shelf leasing program that reflects these important principles.

The commencement of this program occurs at a critical time in our country's resurgence as an energy superpower. Increasing onshore production on state and private lands is helping to pull our nation out of a recession and driving down our trade deficit. At the state and local level in Pennsylvania, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota and many others, economic activity related to energy production is creating thousands of jobs and generating increased revenues that are being reinvested in public education, transportation projects, and other municipal improvements. The energy boom on state and private lands stands as a paradigm of our nation's entrepreneurial spirit. There is no reason why we cannot replicate this vigorous job growth in more states by opening new OCS areas for development as was envisioned in 2008 when the moratoria on the OCS was lifted in a bipartisan fashion between the then Democrat Majority House and President Bush.

Since the 1950s, the Gulf of Mexico has been the world's preeminent area for offshore drilling alongside thriving fishing and tourism industries. This is where the technological innovation behind pursuing deepwater resources was born and where it has flourished. Today, over 60 years later, the playing field has significantly changed. Countries like Canada, Mexico and China are ramping up their efforts to develop their offshore resources and directly competing with the United States. Simply put: the status quo will not suffice. By producing more American energy from our OCS resources, we can help to insulate our nation from global price shocks and put the United States and our allies on a more secure path.

As you consider areas to include in the 2017-2022 Draft Proposed Program, we note that the administration and the Department of the Interior have made considerable changes to the structure and regulations that govern offshore energy development to enhance safety. The industry has also stepped up with the development of best practices and technologies focused on the areas of spill

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prevention, containment, and recovery. We are confident that these changes will allow offshore exploration and development to proceed in an environmentally responsible way.

For these many reasons, we believe the Department must move forward with a Five Year Program that continues to lease in the Gulf of Mexico but also includes new areas with the greatest resource potential as well as areas such as the Mid- and South-Atlantic, or the Arctic, where there is strong bipartisan support from members of Congress, governors, state legislators, local leaders and the general public for allowing oil and natural gas development. With the formation of the 2017-2022 Five Year Program, this administration will be responsible for a decade of offshore lease planning; a legacy of leasing in existing areas will not put our nation's offshore energy production on sound footing. We cannot afford to pass up this pivotal opportunity to expand safe and responsible OCS energy development.

It is our sincere hope that you will demonstrate a similar commitment to our nation's energy future by crafting a program that increases offshore production in new areas to create more American jobs, provide much-needed federal and local government revenue, and fortify our nation's growing position as an energy leader.

Sincerely,



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress




Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Scott Rigell
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



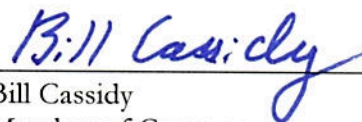
Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

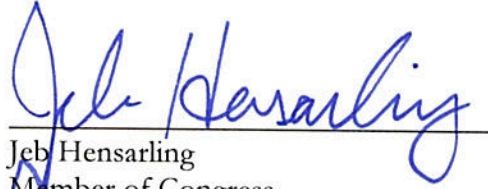


Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

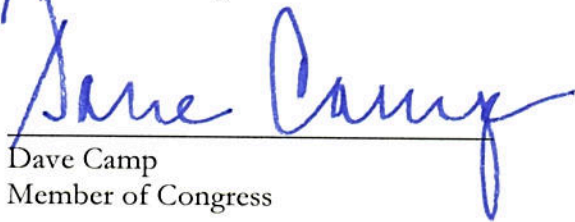


Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

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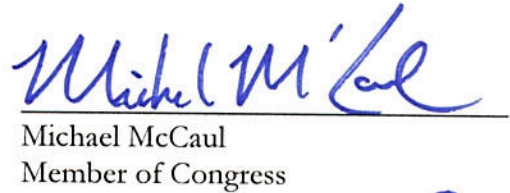

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

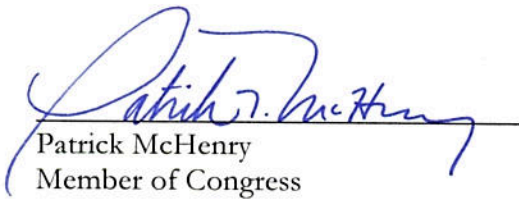

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

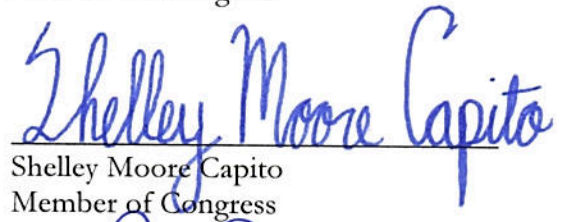

Dave Camp
Member of Congress


Joe Barton
Member of Congress

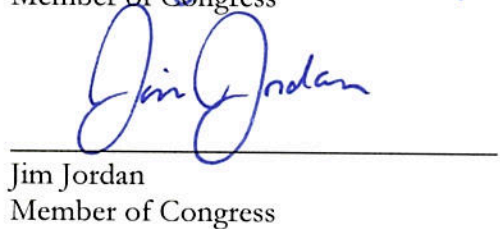

Tom Cotton
Member of Congress

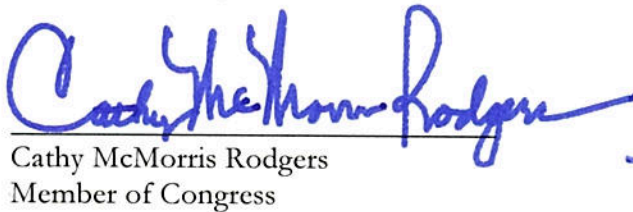

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

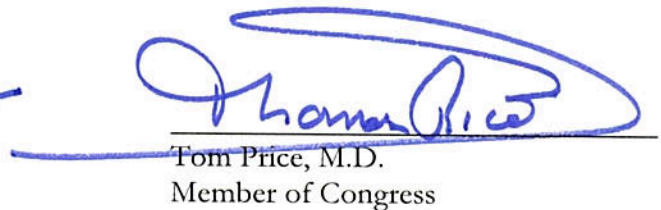

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress


Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

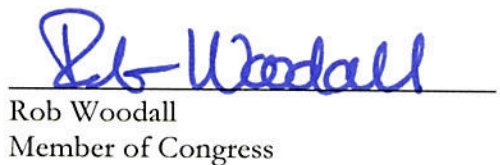

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

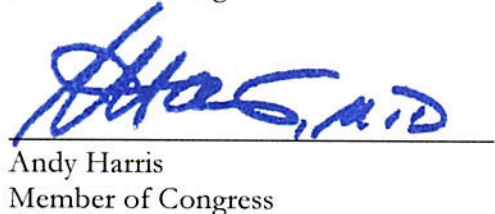

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

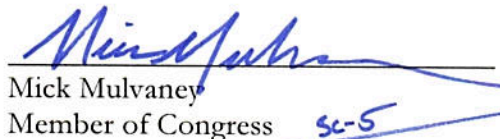

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Tom Price, M.D.
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Robert Aderholt
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Rob Woodall
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Andy Harris
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Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

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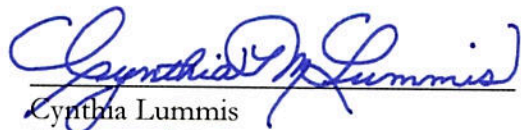
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Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress



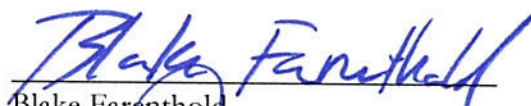
Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



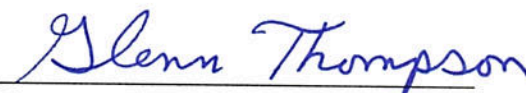
Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



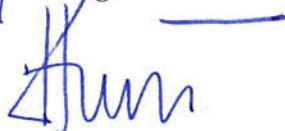
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



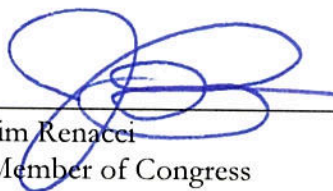
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
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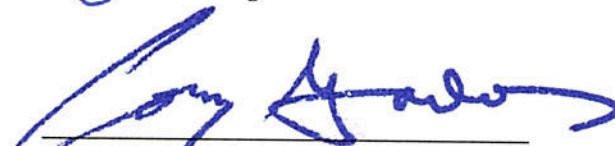
Robert Hurt
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
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Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



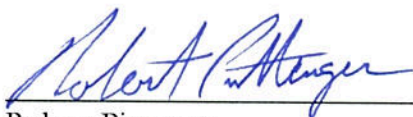
Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
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Mark Amodei
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Robert Pittenger
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Peter Roskam
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James Lankford
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Gregg Harper
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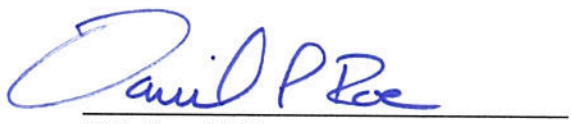
Richard Hanna
Member of Congress




Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



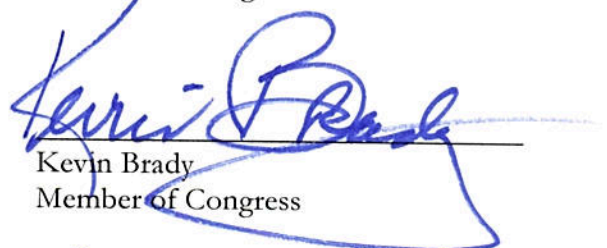
Steve Palazzo
Member of Congress



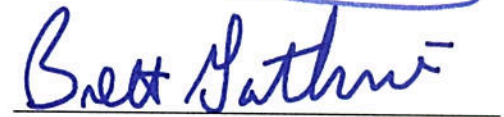
Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress




Chuck Fleischmann
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Kevin Brady
Member of Congress




Brett Guthrie
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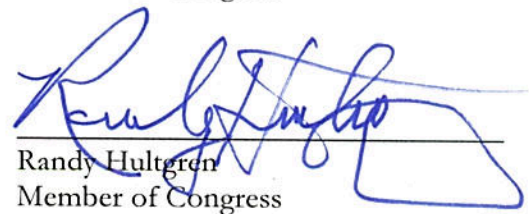
Vance McAllister
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Chris Stewart
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Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress




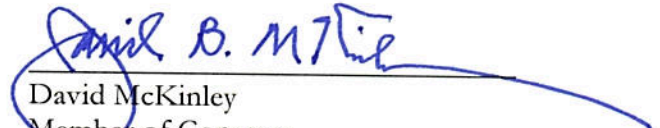
Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress




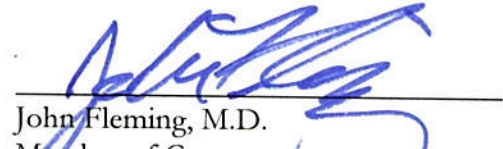
John Carter
Member of Congress

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Tom Marino
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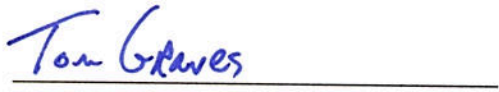

David McKinley
Member of Congress

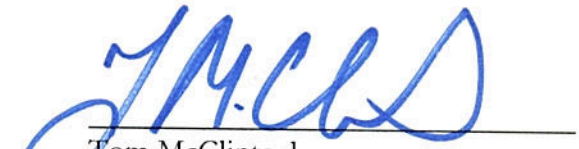

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

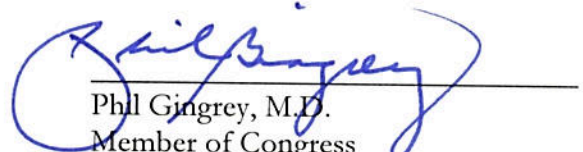

Joe Pitts
Member of Congress


Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

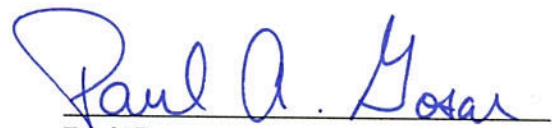

Tom Graves
Member of Congress

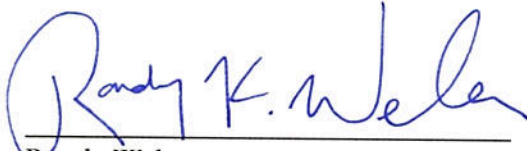

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

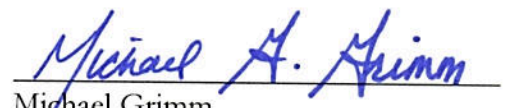

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress

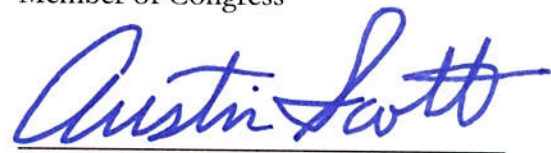

Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress


Paul Gosar
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Randy Weber
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Michael Grimm
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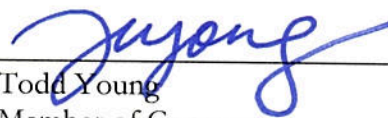

Doug Collins
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Austin Scott
Member of Congress

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David Valadao
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Todd Young
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Steve Stivers
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Kevin Cramer
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Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



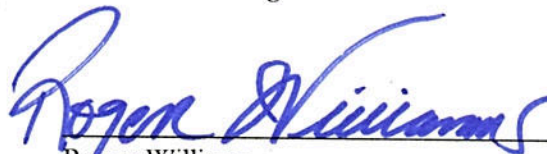
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



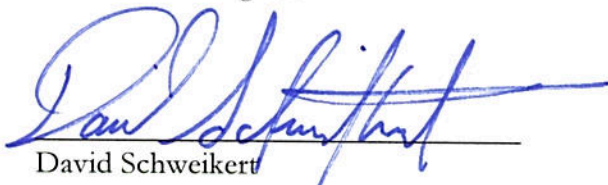
Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress




Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



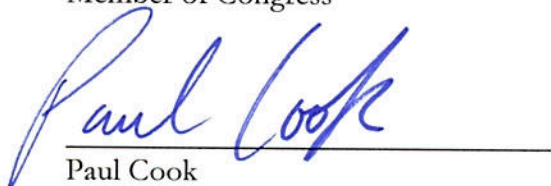
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

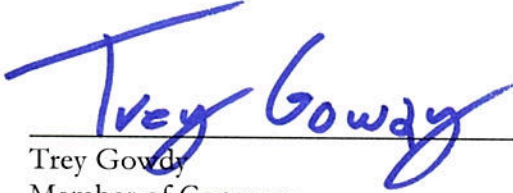
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Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



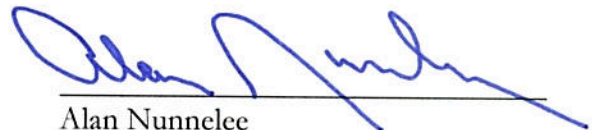
Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



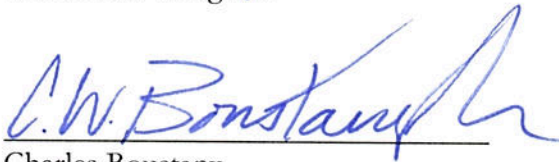
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



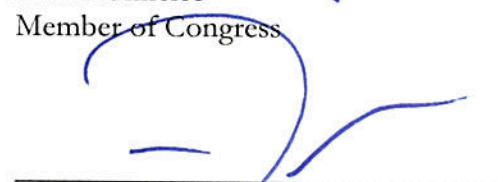
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



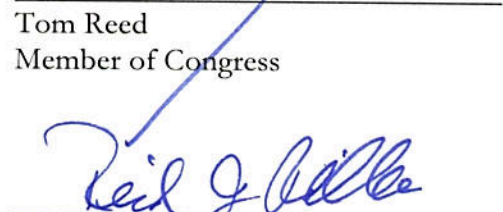
Charles Boustany
Member of Congress



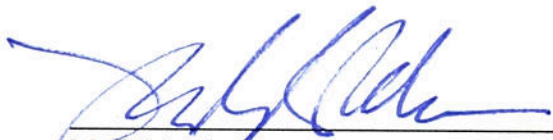
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



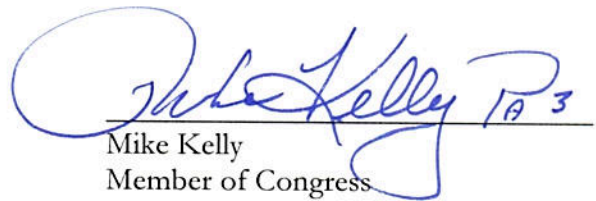
Susan Brooks
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress




Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



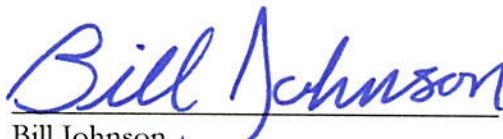
Raul Labrador
Member of Congress



Diane Black
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Billy Long
Member of Congress

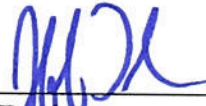


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

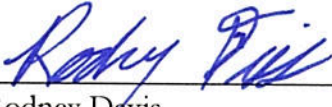
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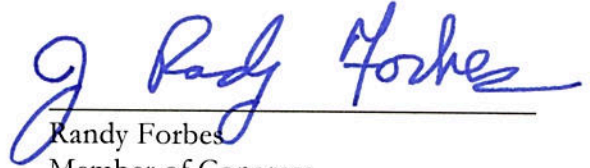
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



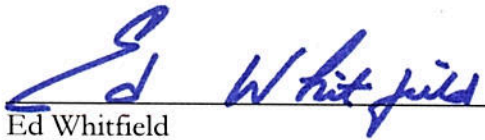
Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



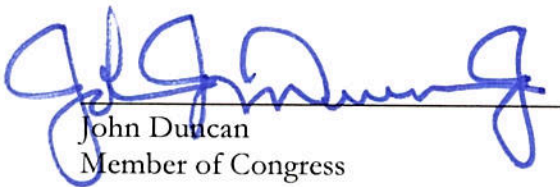
Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



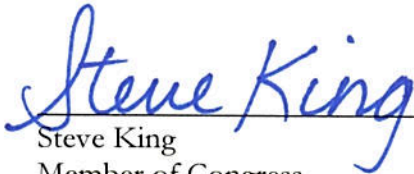
Howard Coble
Member of Congress



John Duncan
Member of Congress



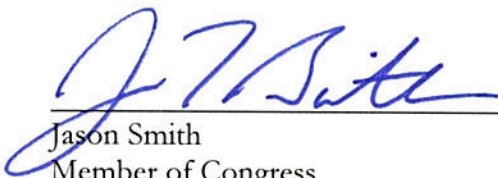
Bill Shuster
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Steve King
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Joe Wilson
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Jason Smith
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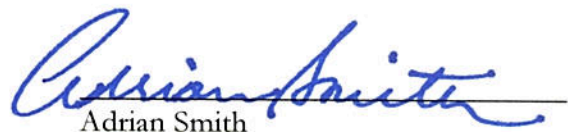


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



M.C.

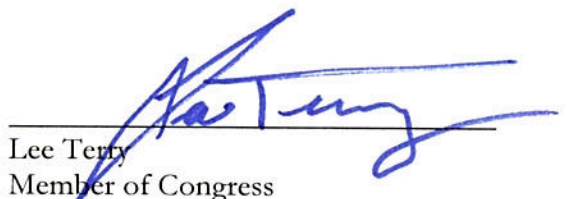
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress

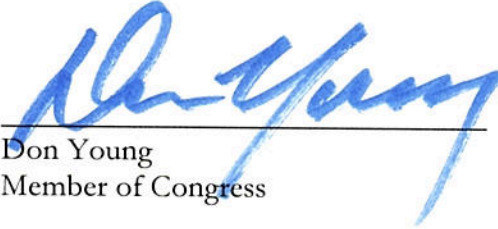
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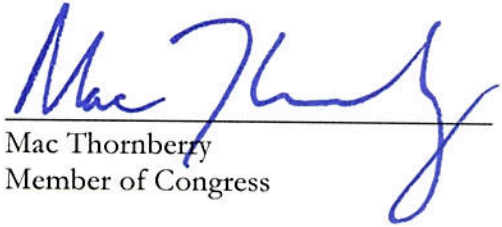
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



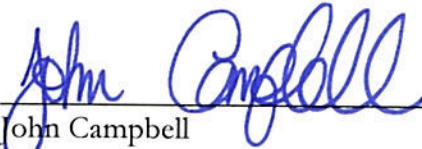
Bob Goodlatte
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Don Young
Member of Congress



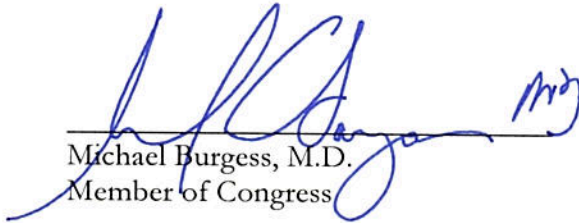
Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



John Campbell
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



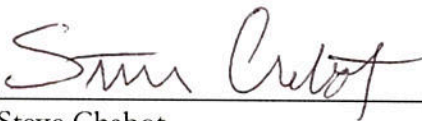
Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



John Culberson
Member of Congress



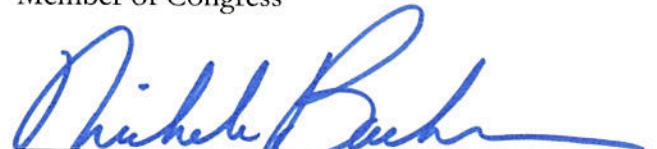
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



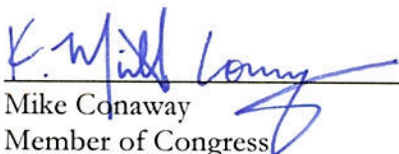
Ralph Hall
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress



Mike Conaway
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress

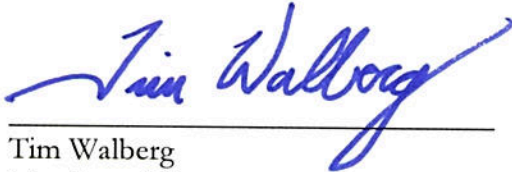
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Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



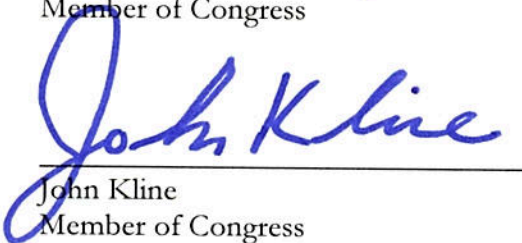
Trent Franks
Member of Congress



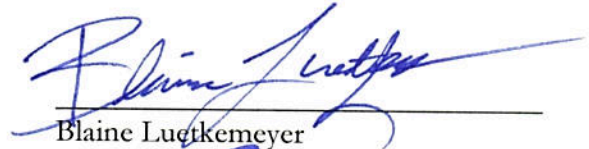
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Paul Broun
Member of Congress



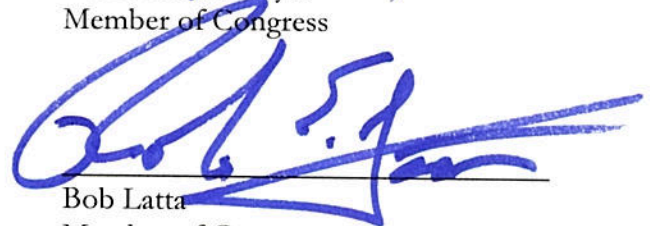
John Kline
Member of Congress



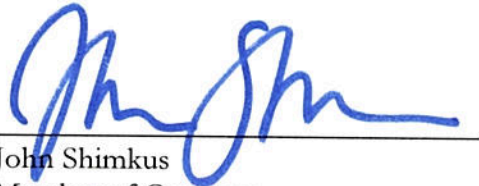
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



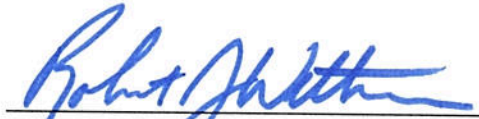
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Bob Latta
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Robert Wittman
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



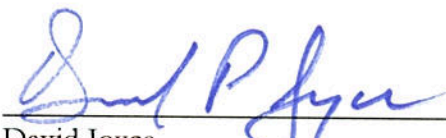
Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

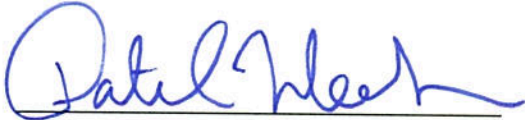


Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress

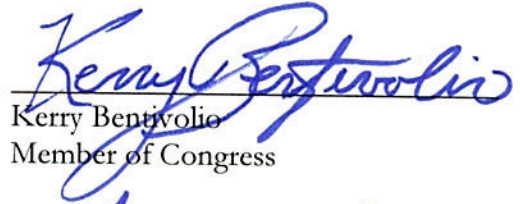


David Joyce
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



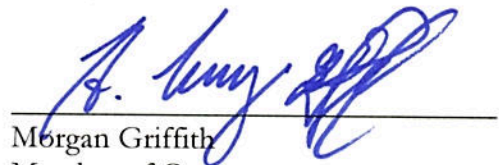
Martha Roby
Member of Congress



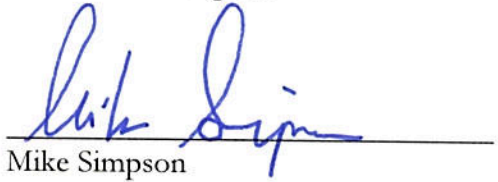
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



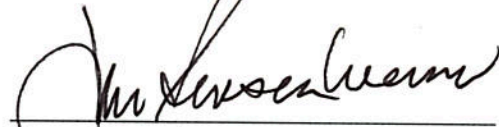
Steve Daines
Member of Congress



Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress