

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2004

The Honorable James T. Walsh
U.S. House of Representatives
2369 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Jim and Alan,

As supporters of fundamental scientific research and education, we are writing to urge you to make the National Science Foundation (NSF) a priority and fund it at the highest possible level in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget.

Congress recognized the importance of this investment by overwhelmingly passing the National Science Foundation Authorization Act (P.L. 107-368) which authorizes doubling the budget of NSF over five years. We realize that budget realities may not allow Congress to fund NSF at the FY 2005 authorized level of \$7.4 billion. However, we believe that significant increases in NSF's overall budget are warranted.

NSF funds all disciplines of science and engineering. It is the primary source of federal funding for non-medical basic research at colleges and universities. NSF-funded research has made tremendous contributions to our economic vitality and national security over the past 50 years. Internet browsers, microelectronics, lasers, communication systems and fiber optics, computer programs to predict weather, design buildings and direct pilots have all begun as NSF-funded projects. NSF plays a leading role in nanotechnology research, preserving the world's biocomplexity, and in developing new information technologies and cybersecurity methods.

NSF is also a key supporter of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education. It supports more than 200,000 students, teachers and researchers—essentially underwriting the development of the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technical workers.

Math and science education is an enormous and pressing need. The U.S. Department of Labor projects that new jobs requiring science, engineering and technical training will increase four times faster than the average national job growth rate. Workers will need a fundamental understanding of math, science and engineering as well as technical know-how to succeed. Unfortunately, a full third of our students are performing below basic levels on assessment tests in math and science areas. Now, more than ever, we must invest in our children to develop their

The Honorable James T. Walsh

June 1, 2004

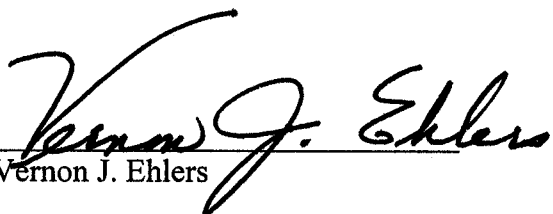
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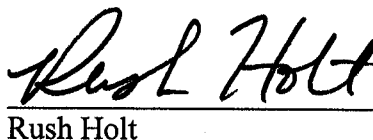
talent, ensure their success and to develop the nation's full talent to maintain the quality of our workforce and our economic strength.

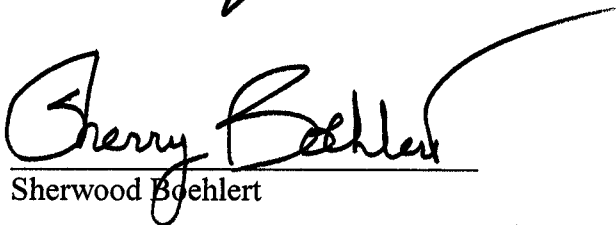
NSF has also been praised as a model of administrative efficiency—over 95% of its funds go directly to support education and research programs. NSF has accomplished its research and educational goals with only 4% of the total federal research and development budget.

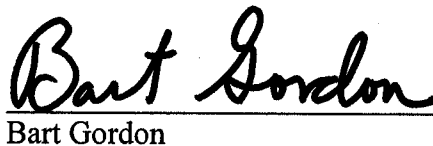
We are mindful that you will be faced with very difficult choices this year. We respectfully request your support to fund NSF at the highest possible level--we cannot afford to sacrifice the research and education which current and future generations need to ensure their economic prosperity and domestic security.

Sincerely,


Vernon J. Ehlers

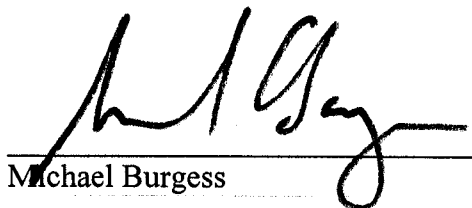

Rush Holt

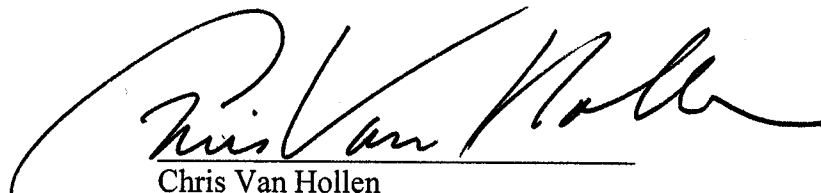

Sherwood Boehlert

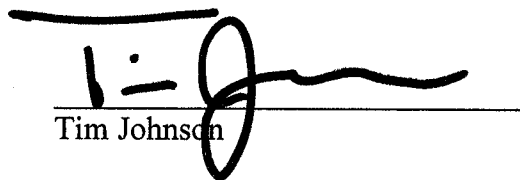

Bart Gordon


Nick Smith

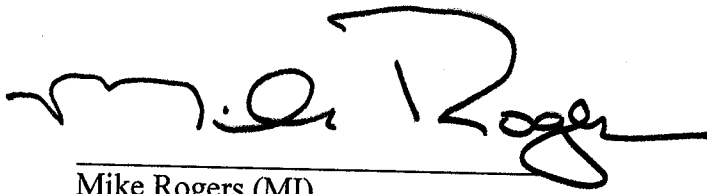

Eddie Bernice Johnson


Michael Burgess

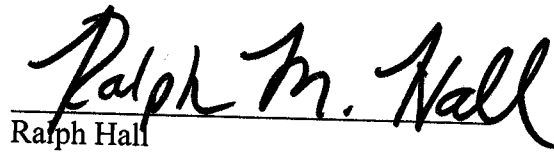

Chris Van Hollen


Tim Johnson


Shelia Jackson Lee



Mike Rogers (MI)



Ralph Hall



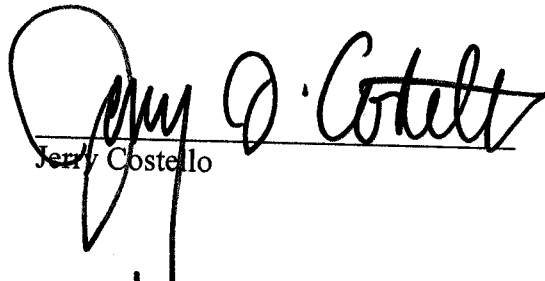
Michael Honda



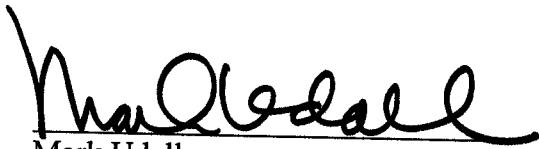
Adam Schin



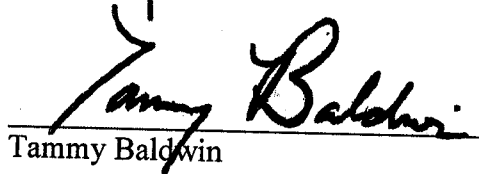
Nick Lampson



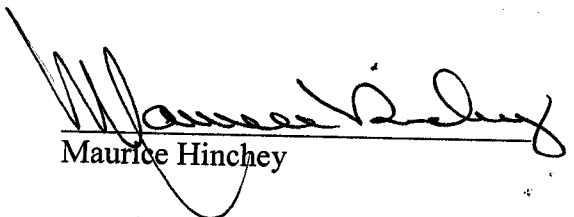
Jerry Costello



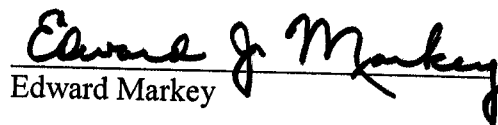
Mark Udall



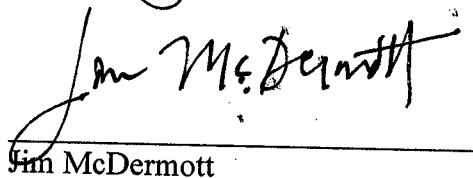
Tammy Baldwin



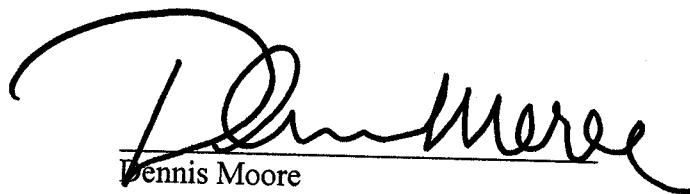
Maurice Hinchey



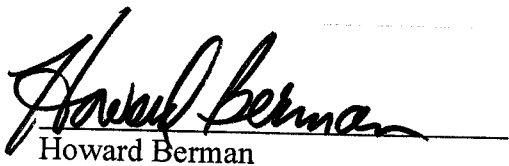
Edward Markey



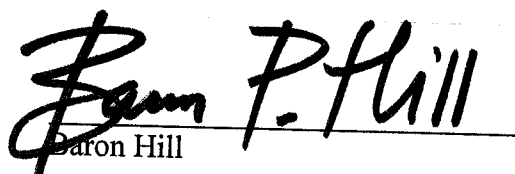
Jim McDermott



Dennis Moore



Howard Berman



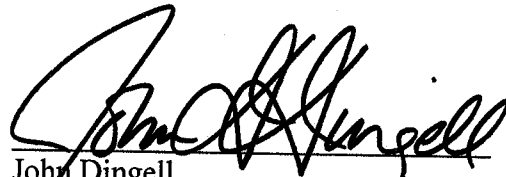
Baron Hill

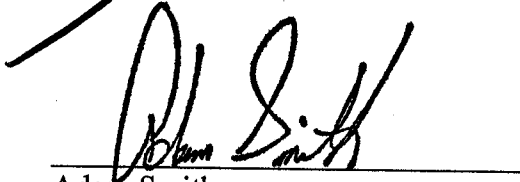
The Honorable James T. Walsh

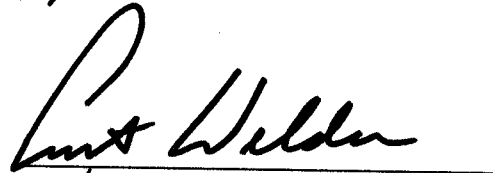
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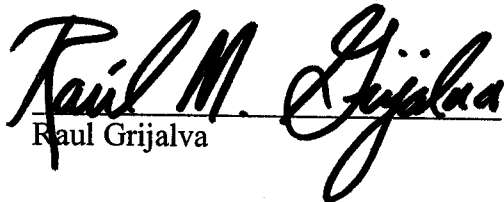
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Lincoln Davis

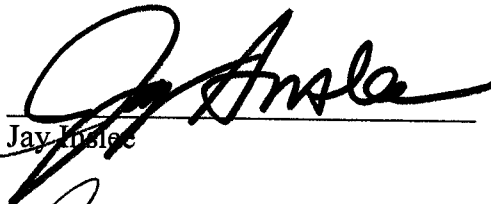

John Dingell

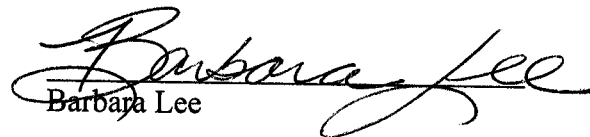

Adam Smith

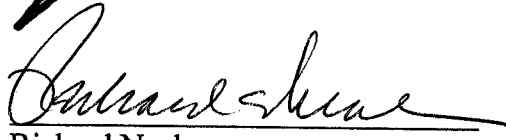

Curt Weldon


Raul Grijalva

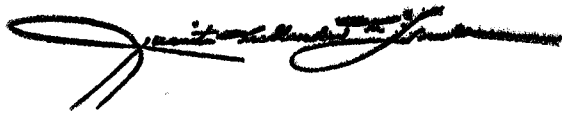

Jim Cooper

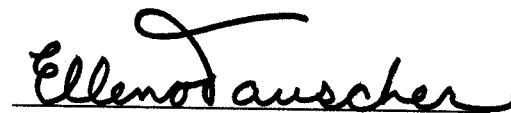

Jay Bybee

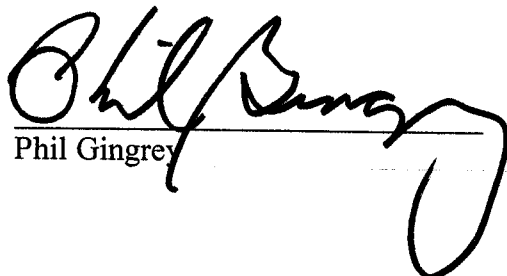

Barbara Lee

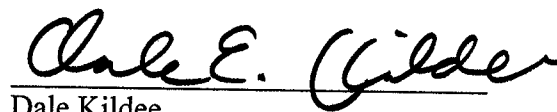

Richard Neal

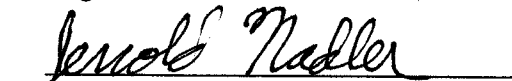

Bernard Sanders


Juanita Millender-McDonald

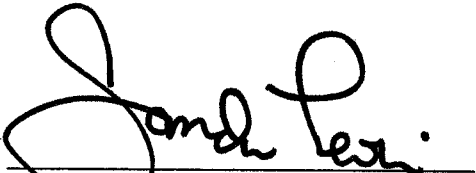

Ellen Tauscher

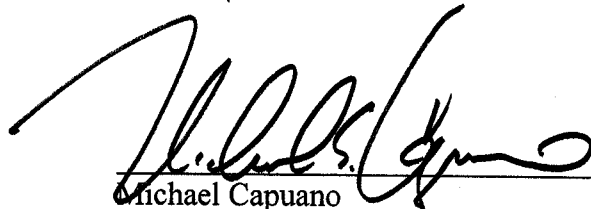

Phil Gingrey


Dale Kildee


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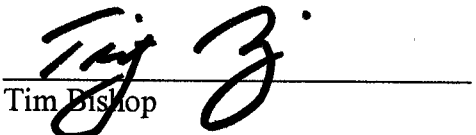

Lois Capps

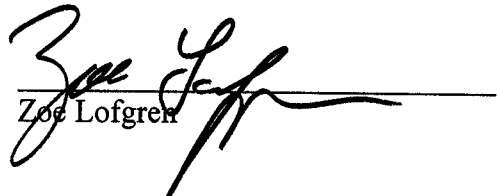

Sander Levin

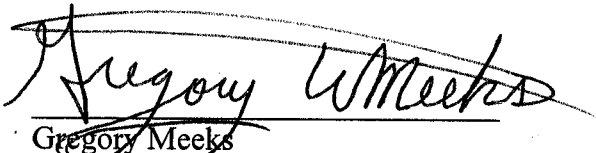

Michael Capuano

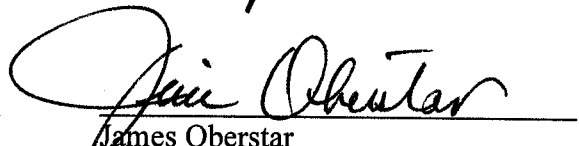

Bob Etheridge

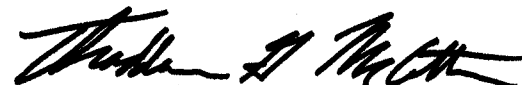

Jim Moran

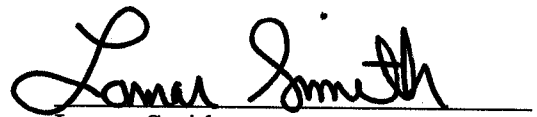

Tim Bishop



Zoe Lofgren

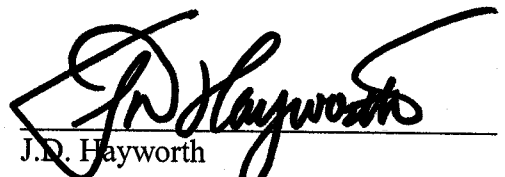

Gregory Meeks


James Oberstar


Thad McCotter


Lamar Smith


Jim Matheson

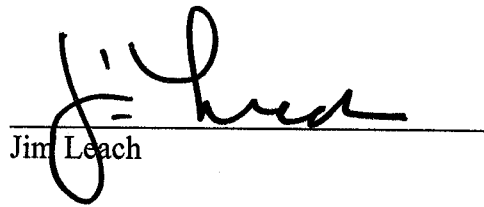

J.D. Hayworth

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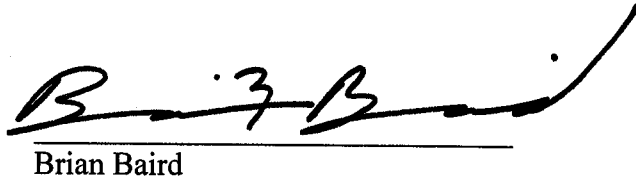
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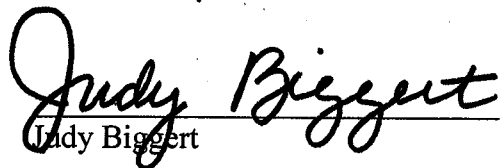
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Bart Stupak

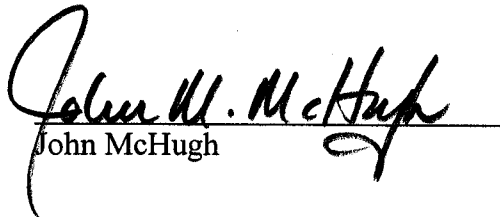

Jim Leach


John Conyers

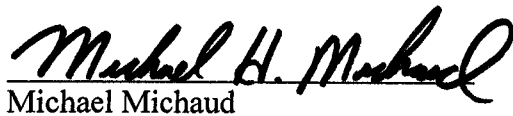

Brian Baird

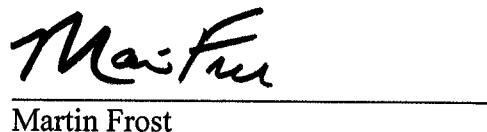

Judy Biggert


Elijah Cummings


John McHugh

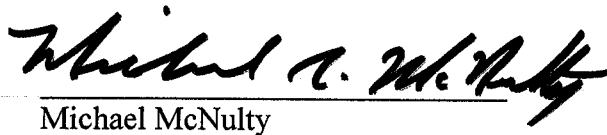

Rosa DeLauro


Michael Michaud

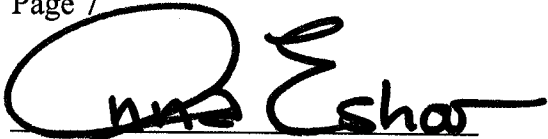

Martin Frost


Robert Matsui


Charles Gonzalez


Michael McNulty


Karen McCarthy



Anna Eshoo



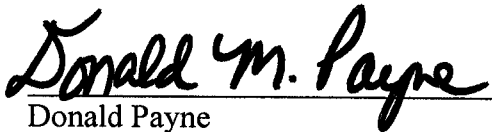
Gene Green



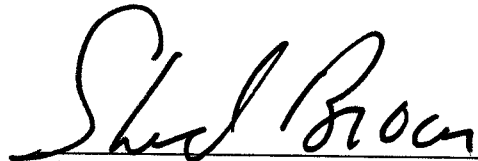
Darlene Hooley



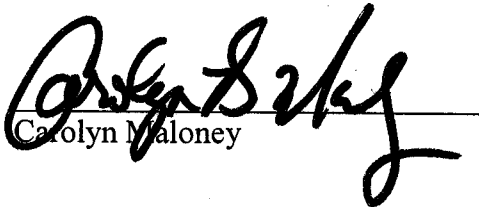
Bennie Thompson



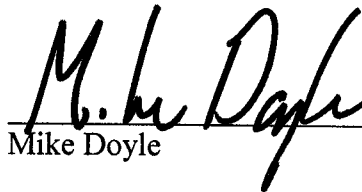
Donald Payne



Sherrod Brown



Carolyn Maloney



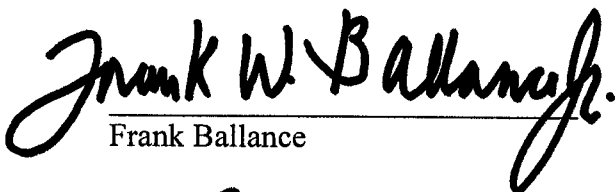
Mike Doyle



Frank Pallone



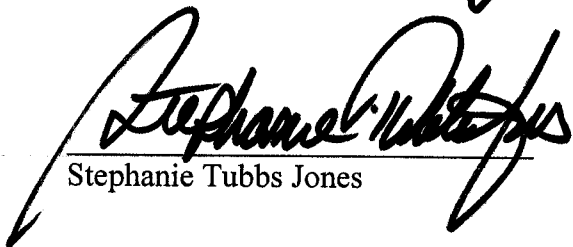
Carolyn McCarthy



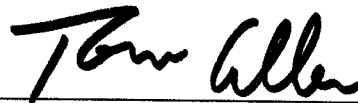
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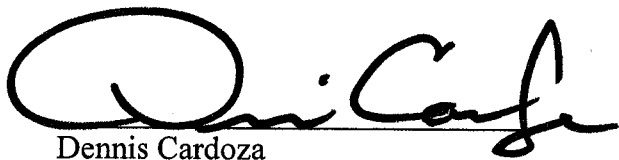
Tom Lantos



Stephanie Tubbs Jones

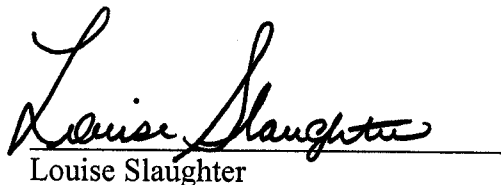


Tom Allen


Dennis Cardoza

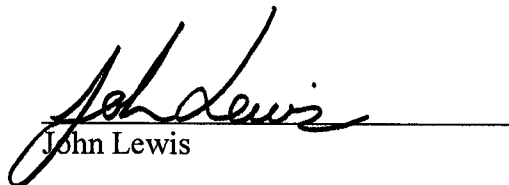

Mike McIntyre

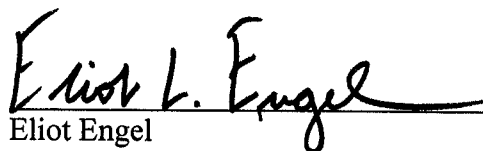

George Miller

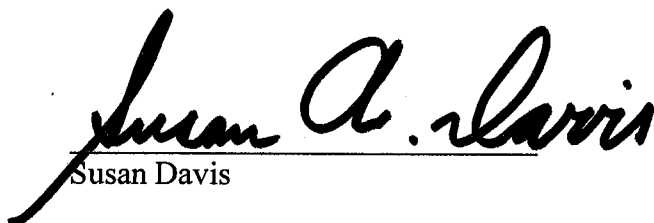

Louise Slaughter

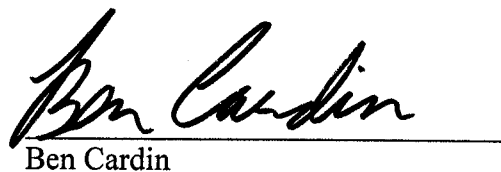

James Langevin


Jan Schakowsky


John Lewis


Eliot Engel


Susan Davis



Ben Cardin


James McGovern



Fred Upton


Major Owens


Ted Strickland



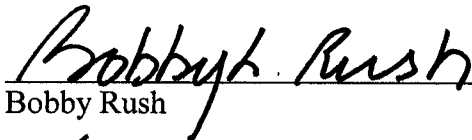
Gary Ackerman



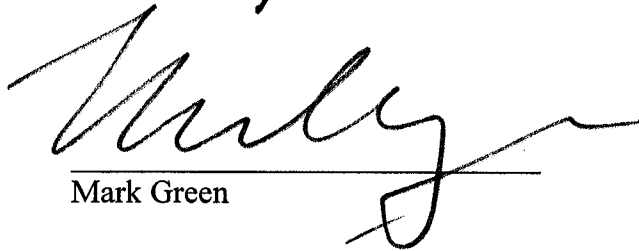
Brad Miller



Rick Larsen



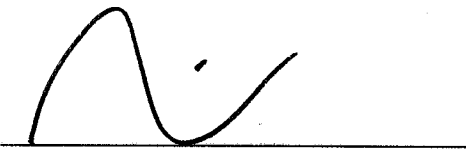
Bobby Rush



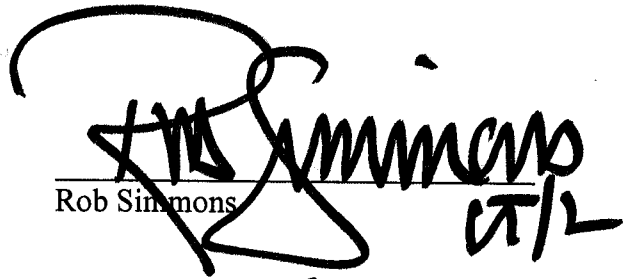
Mark Green



Bob Filner



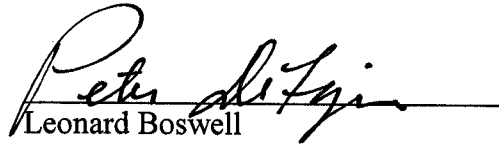
Anthony Weiner



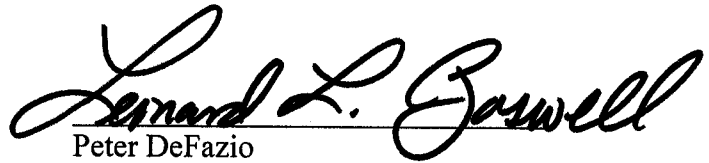
Rob Simmons



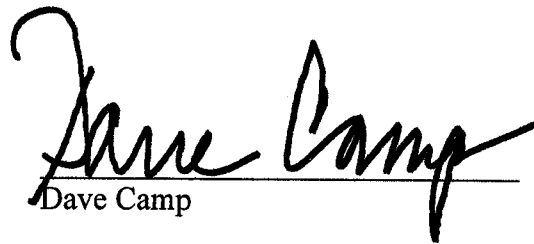
George Nethercutt




Leonard Boswell



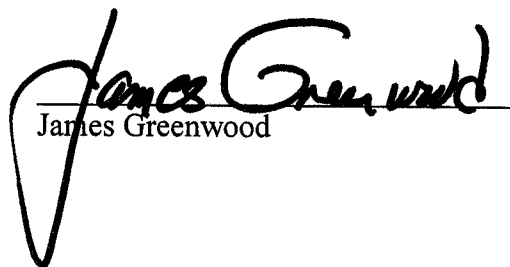
Peter DeFazio



Dave Camp



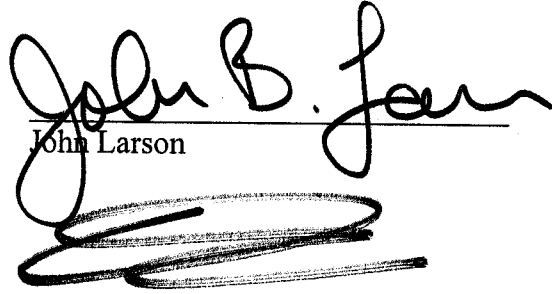
Harold Ford



James Greenwood



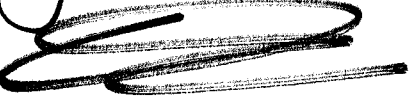
Tom Udall



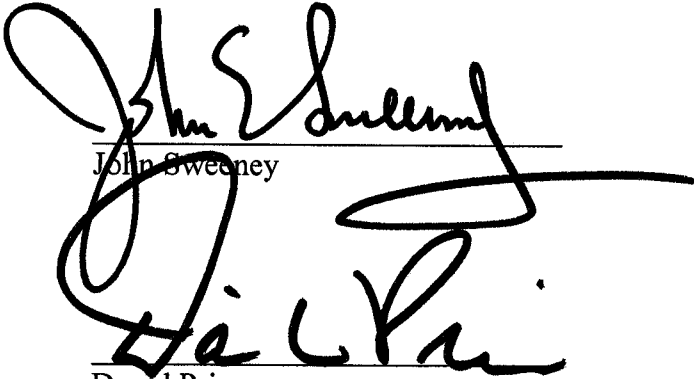
John Larson



Lynn Woolsey



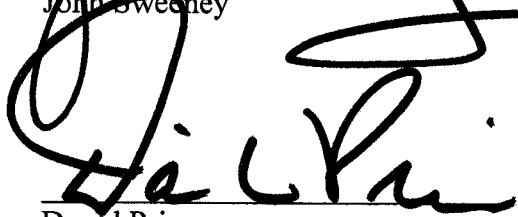
David Wu



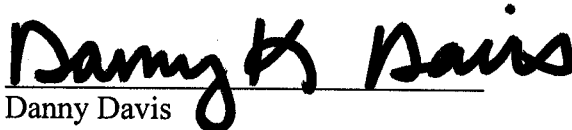
John Sweeney



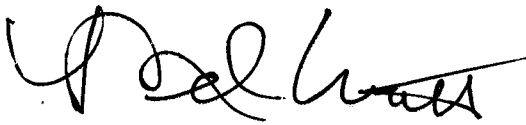
Diana DeGette



David Price



Danny Davis



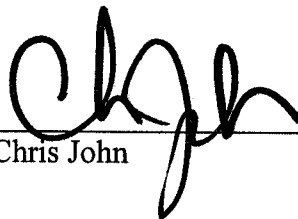
Mel Watt



Neil Abercrombie



William Delahunt



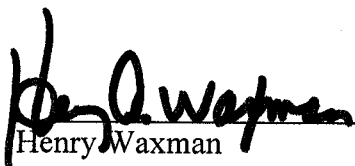
Chris John



William Lacy Clay



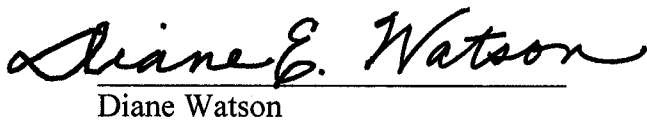
Ken Calvert

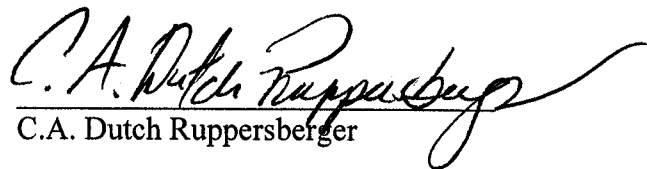


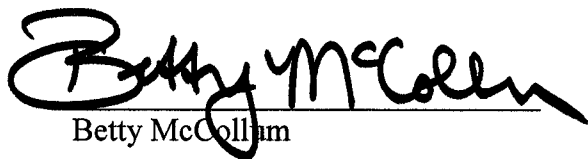
Henry Waxman


Joseph Hoeffel


Brad Sherman


Diane Watson

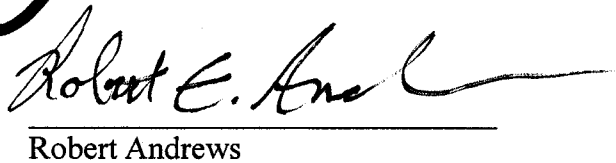

C.A. Dutch Ruppberger


Betty McCollum


Ron Kind

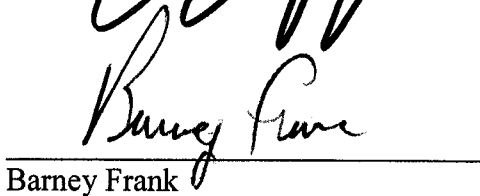

Jack Quinn


Gerald Kleczka


Robert Andrews

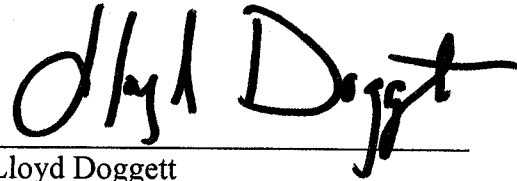

William Jefferson


Martin Meehan

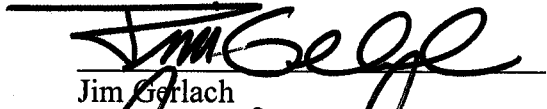

Barney Frank



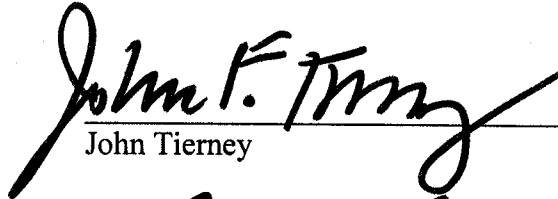
Scott McInnis



Lloyd Doggett



Jim Gerlach



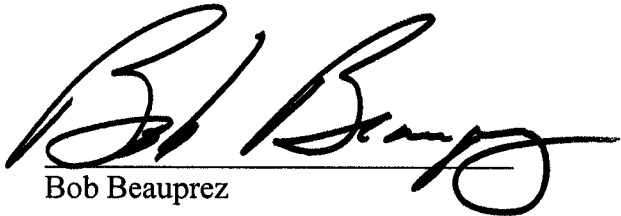
John Tierney



Gil Gutknecht



Phil English



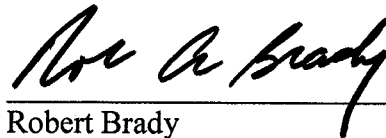
Bob Beauprez



Linda Sanchez



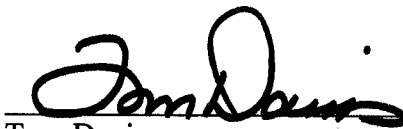
Mike Thompson




Robert Brady



Todd Platts



Tom Davis



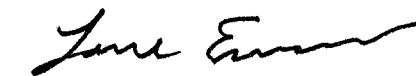
Ruben Hinojosa



John Carter



Silvestre Reyes




Lane Evans

The Honorable James T. Walsh

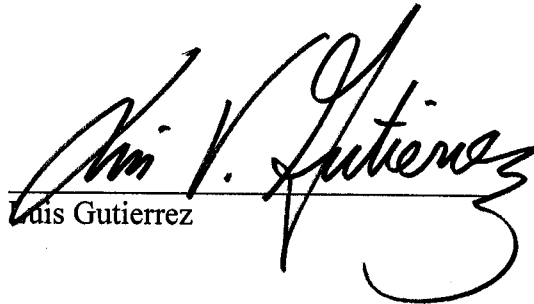
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Grace Napolitano


Ben Chandler


Chris Bell


Luis Gutierrez


Richard Burr


Steve Israel