

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We want to thank you for your commitment to protect children and their birth families by working to ensure that intercountry adoptions remain as an option for children who would otherwise not be placed for adoptions in their own countries. We would also like to strongly urge you to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Vietnam that addresses concerns surrounding the adoption system in Vietnam.

We strongly share your concern about reported instances of fraud and corruption within Vietnam's adoption system. We share your belief that systematic reform and more effective safeguards are needed to prevent the types of abuses described in your most recent report. Further, we understand that greater cooperation of the Government of Vietnam will be required to address these concerns. Nevertheless, we encourage you to work with the Vietnamese Government to implement proactive measures designed to guard against abuse. Such measures could include a thorough accreditation process for all U.S.-based agencies providing services in Vietnam, increased transparency and accountability with regard to fees, and strengthened laws and procedures for prosecuting individuals found to be complicit in fraudulent behavior.


We believe that signing an interim agreement with Vietnam is consistent with your goal of moving toward a Hague-compliant system, provided that such an agreement would contain enforceable safeguards. We strongly support the transition to a Hague-compliant system in Vietnam. However, we also understand that the establishment of such a system can take years, and it is not in the best interest of children to remain institutionalized or homeless during the period of transition. It is our hope that a properly designed interim agreement could serve as a foundation for the implementation of a Hague-compliant system in the near future.


Madam Secretary, we appreciate the important work that the State Department has done in investigating concerns with the Vietnamese adoption system. It is our hope that we will be able to address these concerns, so that we can continue to find families for these orphans. Accordingly, we ask that you work to resolve these issues and to secure an updated Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam that ensures the integrity of international adoptions between our two countries.


Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this important humanitarian issue.


Sincerely,


Mary L. Landrien
United States Senator

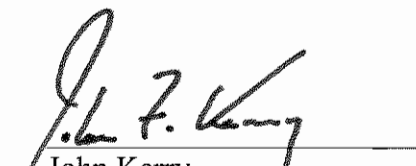

Norm Coleman
United States Senator


Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress



James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress

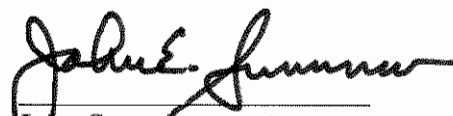

Gordon Smith
United States Senator



Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator



John Kerry
United States Senator


James Inhofe
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


John Sununu
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

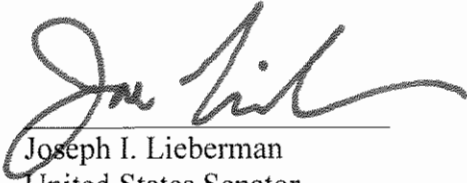

Robert Bennett
United States Senator



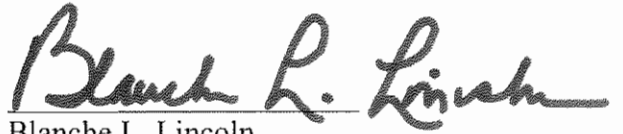
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Carl Levin
United States Senator



Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



Blanche L. Lincoln
United States Senator



Daniel Inouye
United States Senator



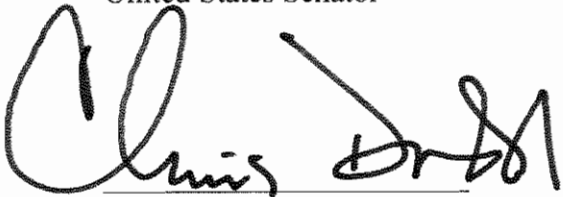
Richard Burr
United States Senator



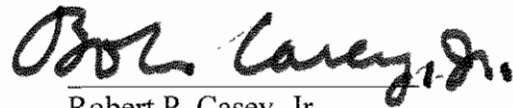
Kent Conrad
United States Senator



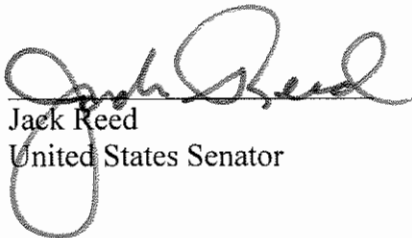
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Christopher Dodd
United States Senator



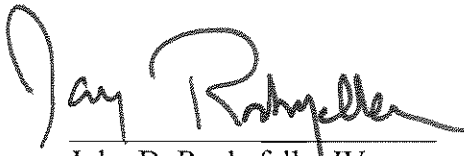
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Bob Corker
United States Senator



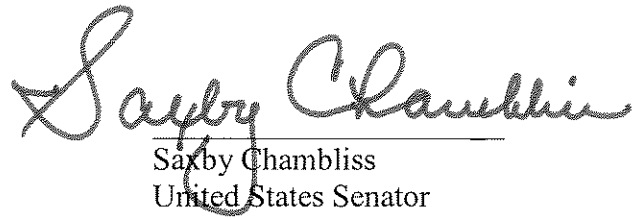
John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



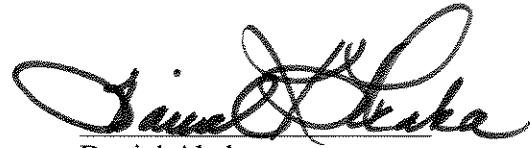
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Frank Lautenberg
United States Senator



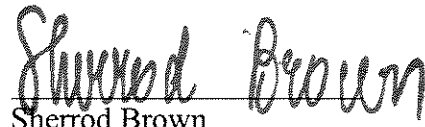
Byron Dorgan
United States Senator



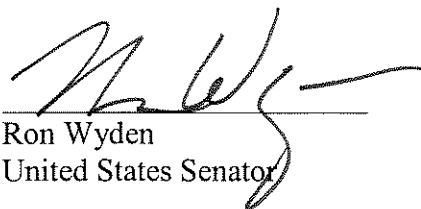
Daniel Akaka
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



George Voinovich
United States Senator



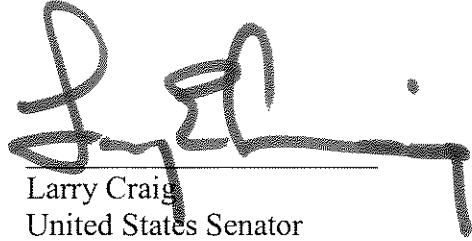
Herb Kohl
United States Senator



Barack Obama
United States Senator



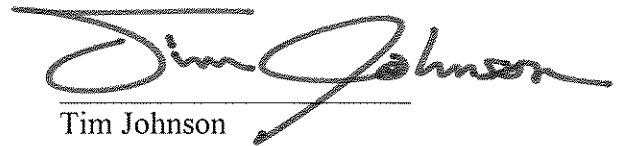
David Vitter
United States Senator



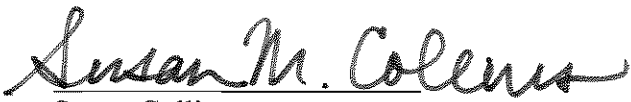
Larry Craig
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



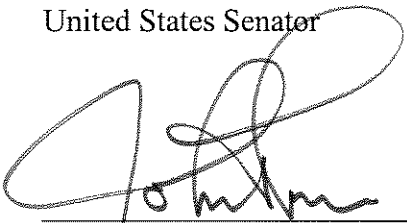
Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator



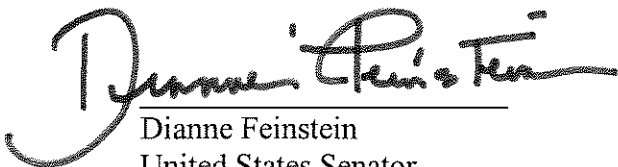
Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Charles Schumer
United States Senator

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator

Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar
United States Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch

Orrin Hatch
United States Senator

John Cornyn

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Elizabeth Dole

Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator

Sam Brownback

Sam Brownback
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Evan Bayh

Evan Bayh
United States Senator

Edward M. Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

Lamar Alexander

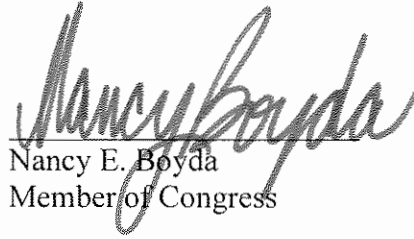
Lamar Alexander
United States Senator

Bill Foster

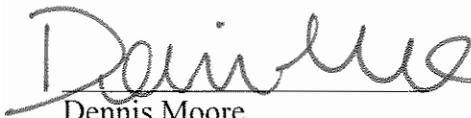
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



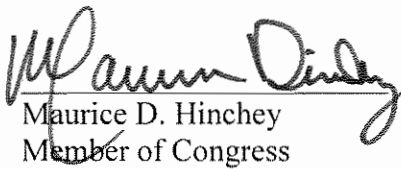
Nancy E. Boyda
Member of Congress



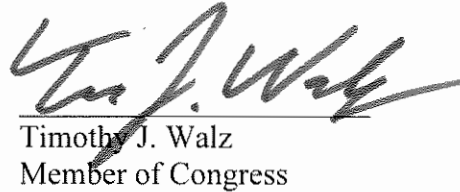
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



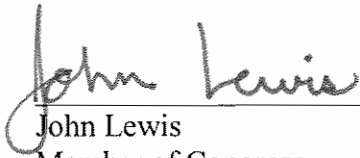
Heath Shuler
Member of Congress



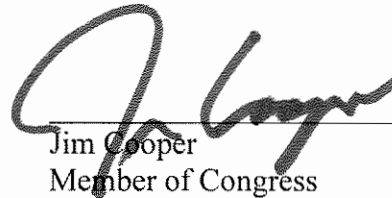
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



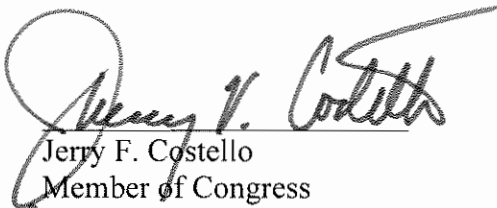
Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



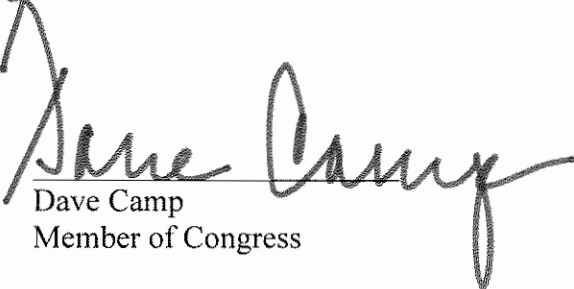
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



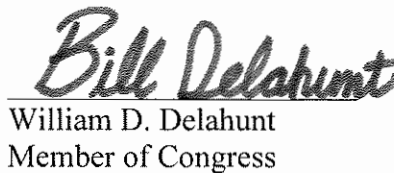
Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress



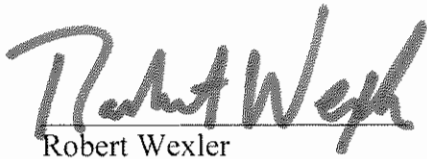
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Dave Camp
Member of Congress



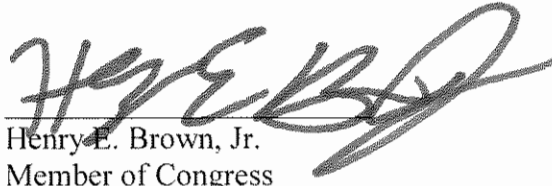
William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



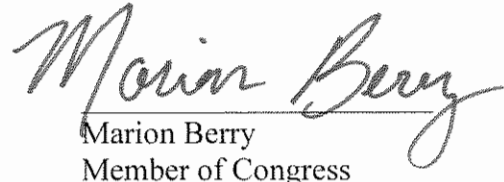
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



John Boozman
Member of Congress



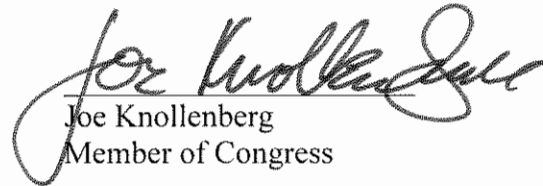
Henry E. Brown, Jr.
Member of Congress



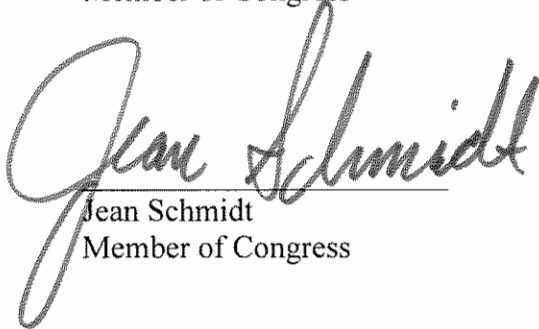
Marion Berry
Member of Congress



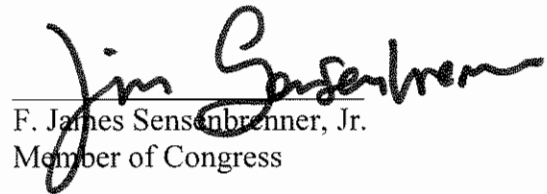
Dan Burton
Member of Congress




Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress



Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress



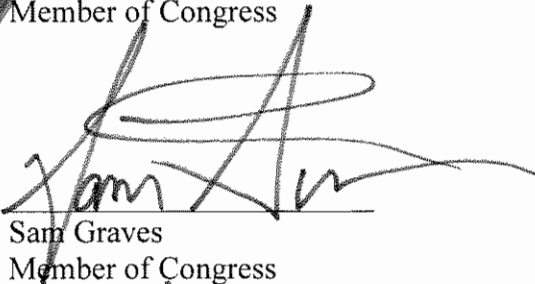
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



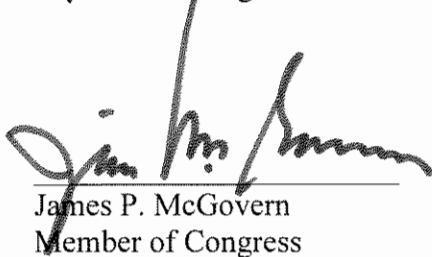
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



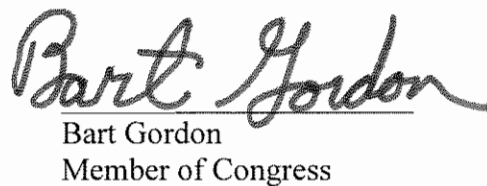
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



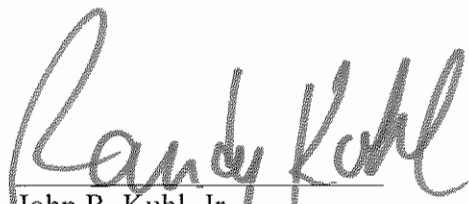
Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

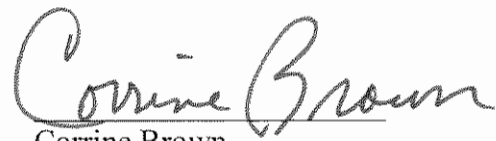



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

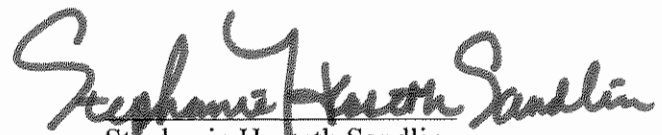


Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



John R. Kuhl, Jr.
Member of Congress

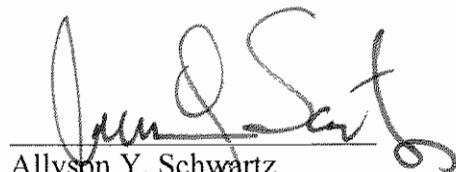

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

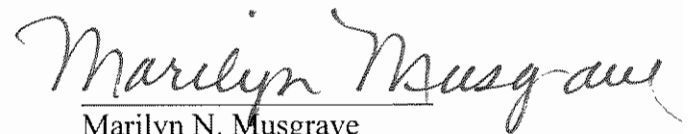

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

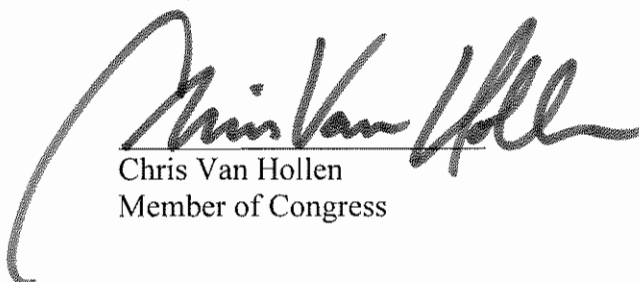

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

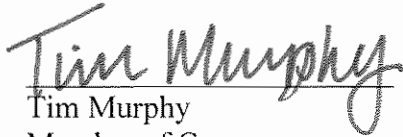

Marilyn N. Musgrave
Member of Congress

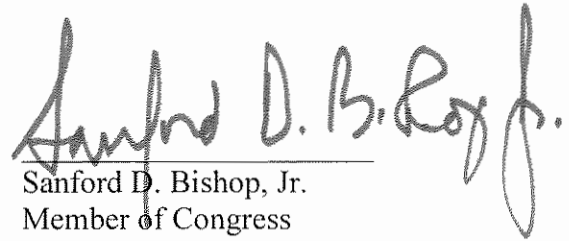

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

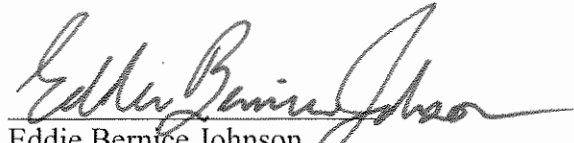

Brad Miller
Member of Congress

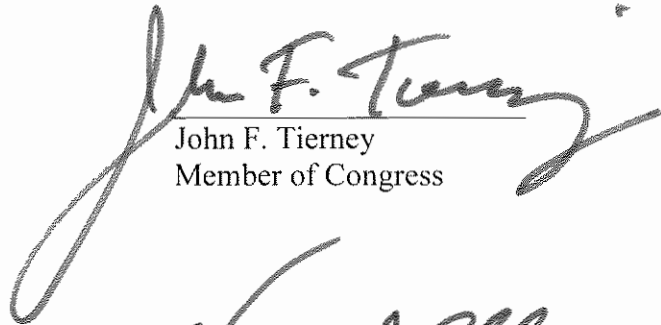

Madeline Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress


Mark Udall
Member of Congress

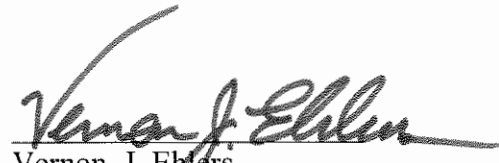

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

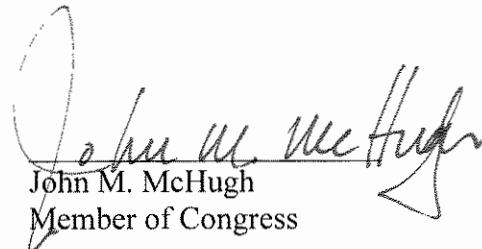

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress


Vernon J. Ehlert
Member of Congress

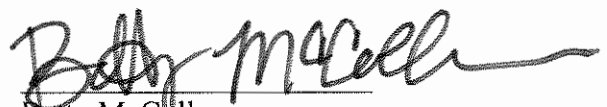

Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress

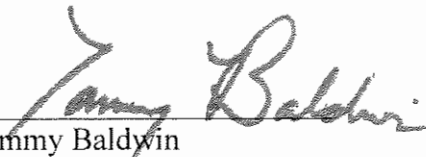

John M. McHugh
Member of Congress

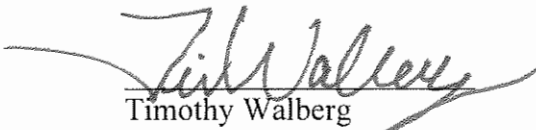

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Steve R. Rothman
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

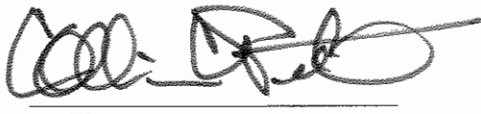

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Timothy Walberg
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

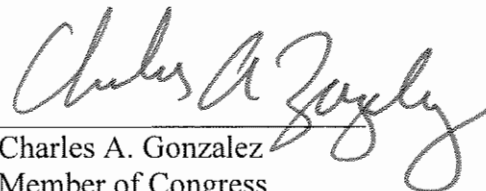

Jason Altmire
Member of Congress

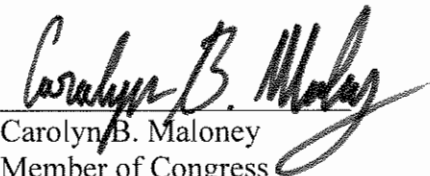

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

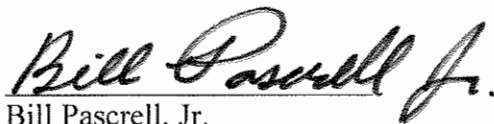

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

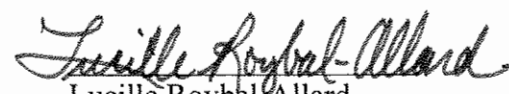

Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress

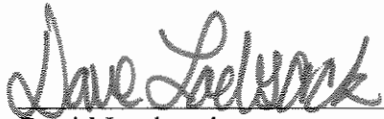

Zachary T. Space
Member of Congress


Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



David Loeb sack
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



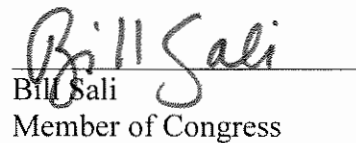
Brad Ellsworth
Member of Congress



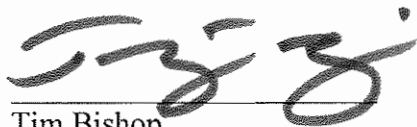
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



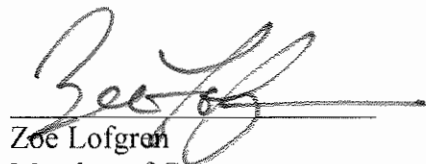
Bill Sali
Member of Congress



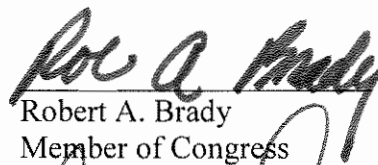
Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress



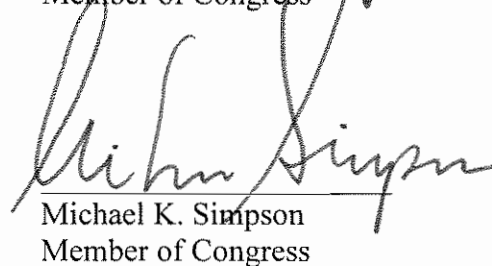
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



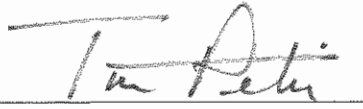
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



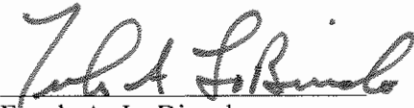
Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



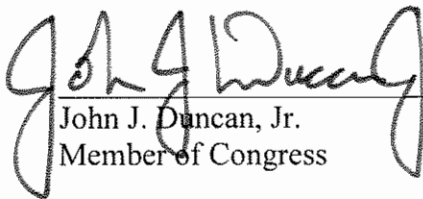
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Paul E. Kanjorski
Member of Congress



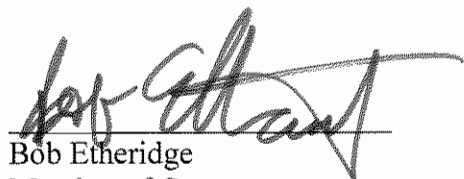
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress




John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress




John Shimkus
Member of Congress



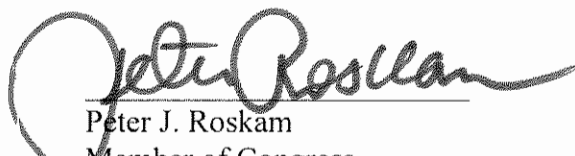
Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress



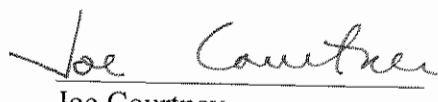
Barnes Frank
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress