

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

June 17, 2011

Ms. Mary L. Schapiro, Chairman  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20549

Mr. Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman  
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve  
20<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20551

Ms. Sheila C. Bair, Chairman  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
1776 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Edward DeMarco, Acting Director  
Federal Housing Finance Agency  
1700 G Street, NW, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20552

Mr. John Walsh, Acting Comptroller  
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency  
250 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20219

Mr. Shaun Donovan, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Chairman Schapiro, Chairman Bernanke, Chairman Bair, Acting Director DeMarco, Acting Comptroller Walsh, and Secretary Donovan:

We are writing concerning your notice of proposed rulemaking on the regulations to implement Section 941 of the Dodd-Frank Act which includes defining a Qualified Residential Mortgage (QRM) that will be exempt from the Act's risk retention requirements. We strongly urge you in this process to consider lower down payment loans that have mortgage insurance (MI) as constituting a QRM.

Section 941 of the Dodd-Frank Act specifically names "mortgage guarantee insurance" as one of the factors to be included in the QRM definition. The law recognizes that private capital does not exclusively come from a lender or an investor; it can be provided by a private mortgage insurer. The QRM regulations should reflect this important reality, which was Congress' intent in clarifying this point in the Act. As we seek to ensure sustainable home ownership supported by the private sector, it should not go unnoticed that loans with private mortgage insurance default less often than uninsured loans. Mortgage insurers provide additional scrutiny on a loan application, supplementing the lender's review. In addition, mortgage insurers have well-established procedures that have been shown to mitigate and cure loan deficiencies. These safeguards protect lenders and investors while keeping families in their homes. This is important to consider as we seek ways to create sustainable home ownership opportunities for Americans through the private sector with less reliance on government-supported mortgage finance products.

The proposal to require a minimum 20 percent down payment requirement under the QRM definition would reduce the availability of affordable mortgage capital for otherwise qualified consumers. In fact, in 2009 when underwriting standards had already been significantly tightened, the majority of homes were purchased with less than a 20 percent down payment. An unnecessarily strict QRM definition would particularly harm first-time and minority homebuyers. Creditworthy first-time homebuyers would be priced out of the market, as evidenced by a survey by the National Association of Realtors that found in 2010, 86 percent of first-time homebuyers made down payments below 20 percent. The resultant reduction in demand for housing, due to an overly burdensome government dictate, would only add to the challenges the housing market faces, and could threaten a full-fledged economic recovery from years to come.

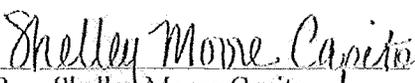
Other overly proscriptive elements of the proposal regarding credit history are best left in the context of establishing broad underwriting standards and principles. We are concerned, for example, that the proposed regulation establishes overly-narrow debt-to-income guidelines last seen more than a generation ago that would further reduce access to credit for a broad range of Americans. Furthermore, this could have the unintended consequence of pushing borrowers to Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insured loans. The FHA is already playing too large of a role in mortgage market and we should not institute policies that could exacerbate the problem.

We urge you to revise the proposed rule to reflect the intent of Congress by including prudently underwritten privately insured loans within the QRM definition. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. John Campbell

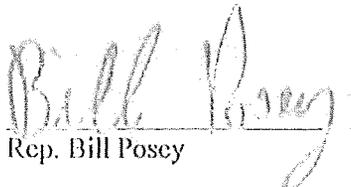
  
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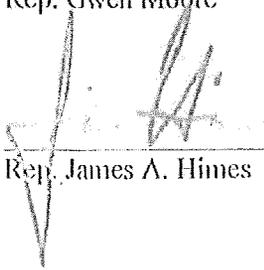
  
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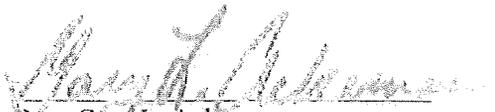
  
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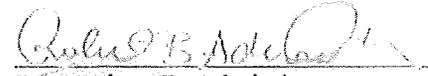
  
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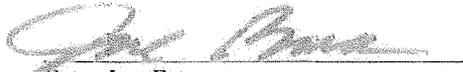
  
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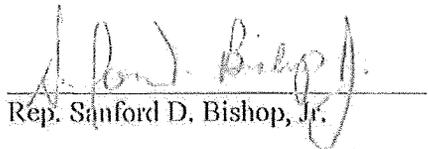
  
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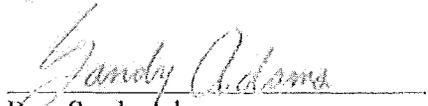
  
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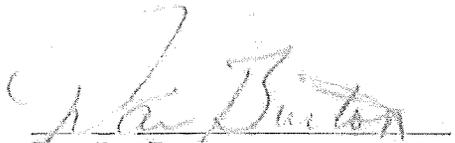
  
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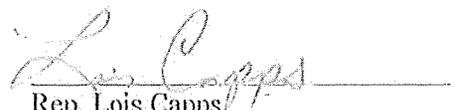
  
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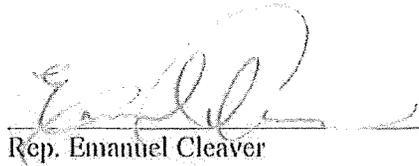
  
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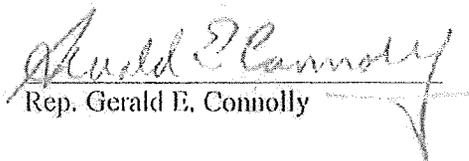
  
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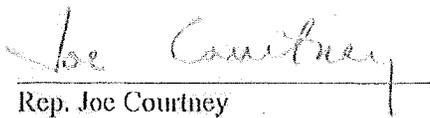
  
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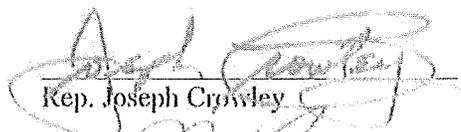
  
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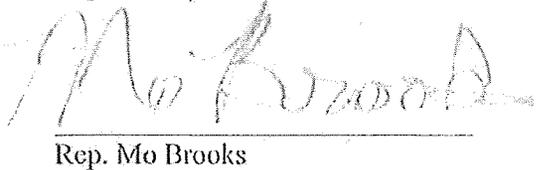
  
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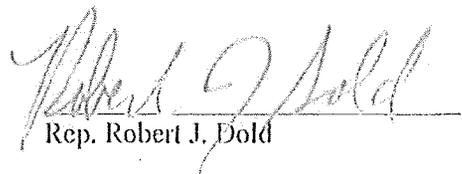
  
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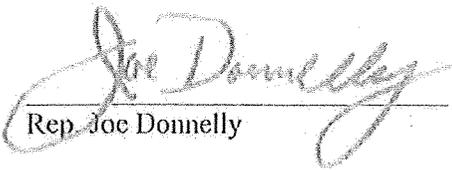
  
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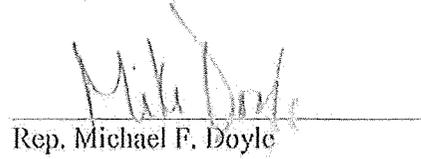
  
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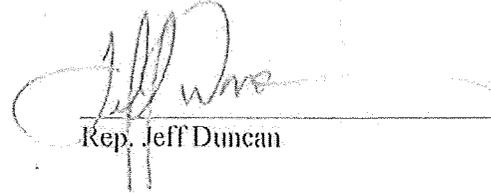
  
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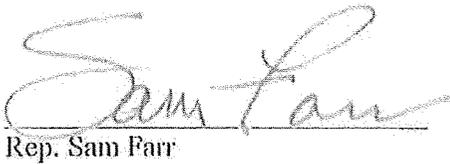
  
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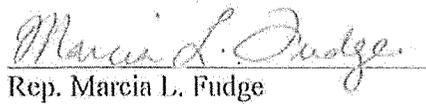
  
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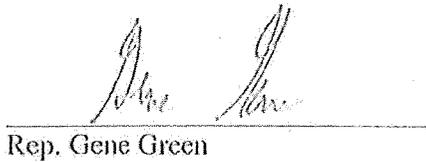
  
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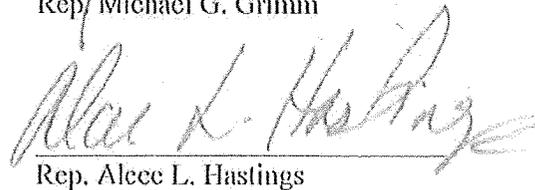
  
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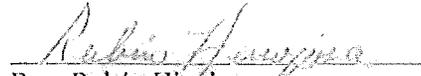
  
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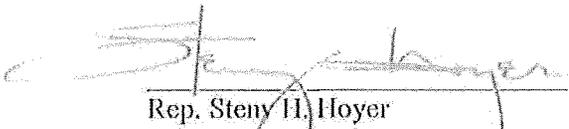
  
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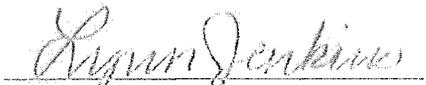
  
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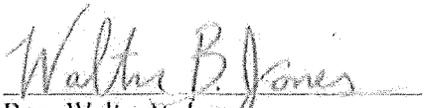
  
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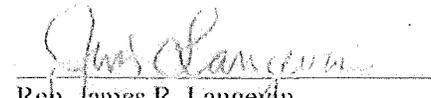
  
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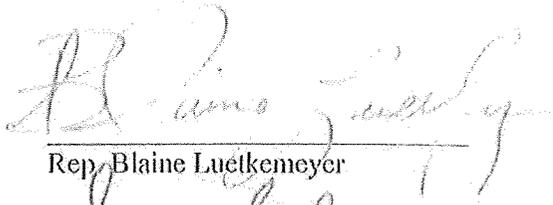
  
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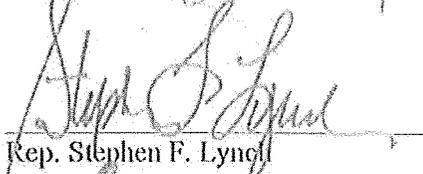
  
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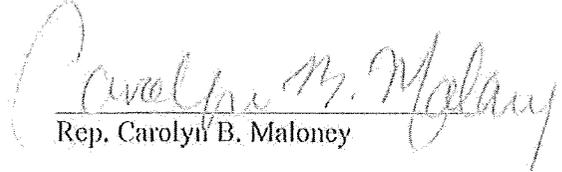
  
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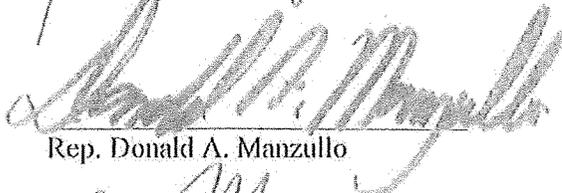
  
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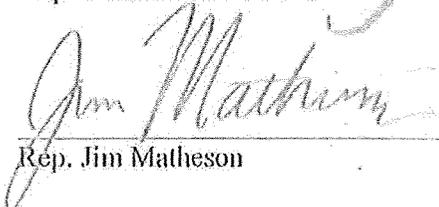
  
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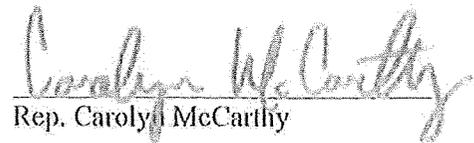
  
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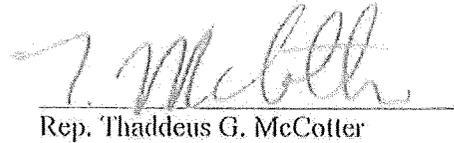
  
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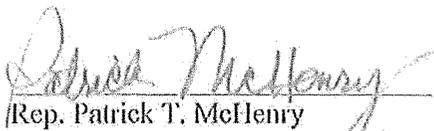
  
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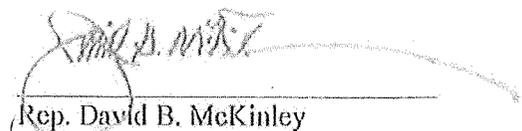
  
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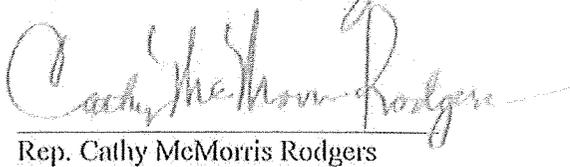
  
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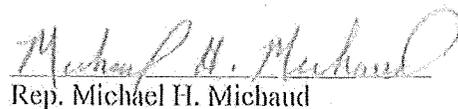
  
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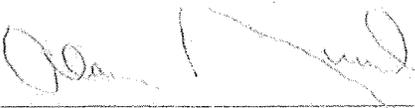
  
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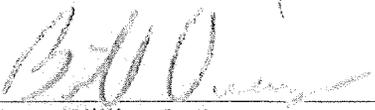
  
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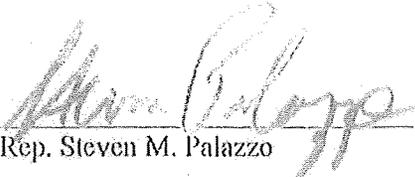
  
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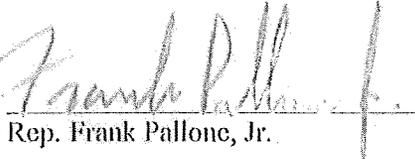
  
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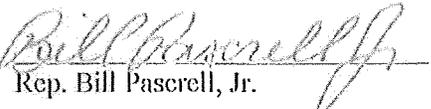
  
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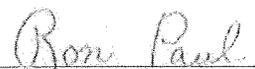
  
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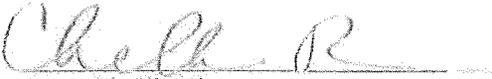
  
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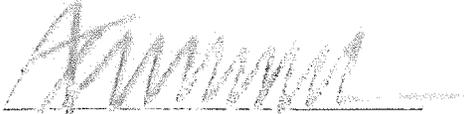
  
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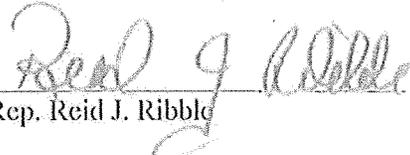
  
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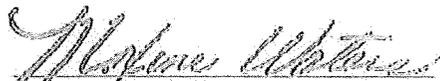
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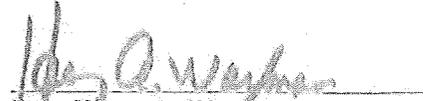
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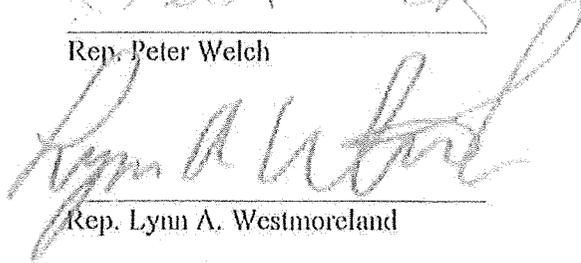
  
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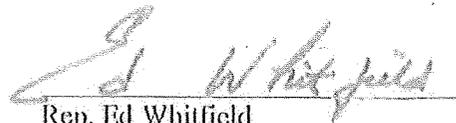
  
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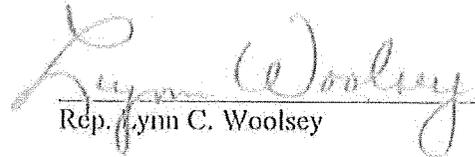
  
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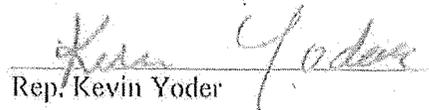
  
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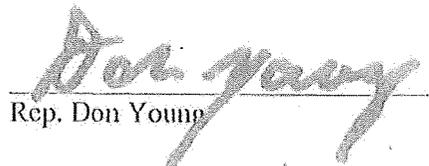
  
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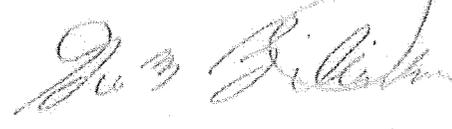
  
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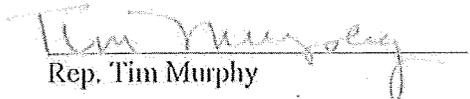
  
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Rep. Brian P. Bilbray

  
Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis

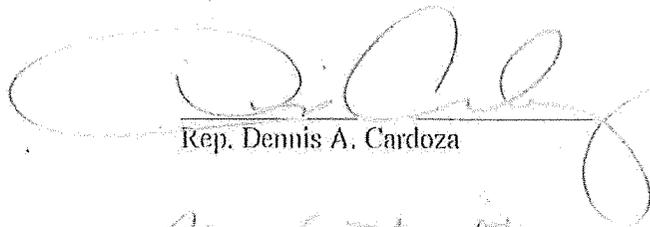
  
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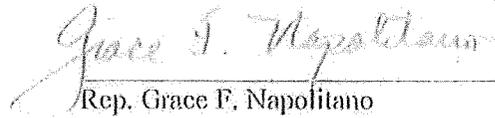
  
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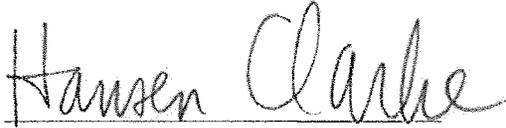
Rep. G.K. Butterfield

Bill Cassidy

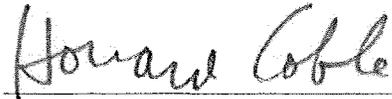
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Rep. Jeff Denham



Rep. Renee L. Ellmers



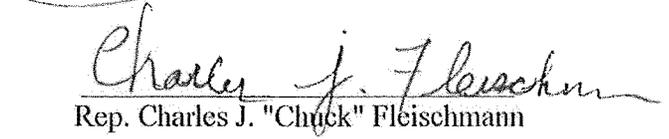
Rep. Eliot L. Engel



Rep. Anna G. Eshoo



Rep. Chaka Fattah



Rep. Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann



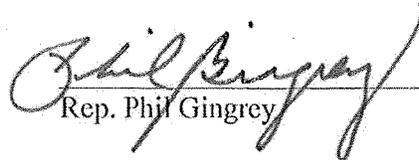
Rep. Trent Franks



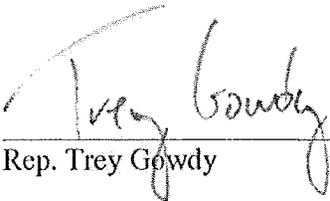
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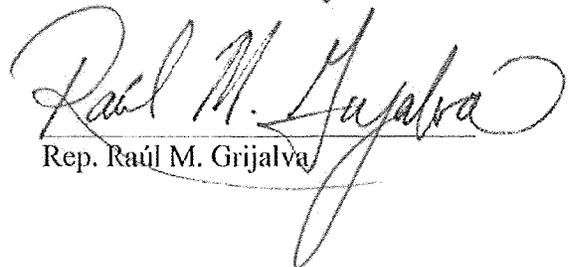
Rep. Christopher P. Gibson



Rep. Phil Gingrey



Rep. Trey Gowdy



Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva



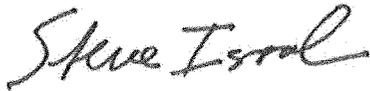
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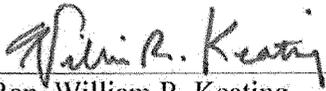
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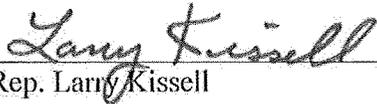
Rep. Tim Huelskamp



Rep. Steve Israel



Rep. William R. Keating



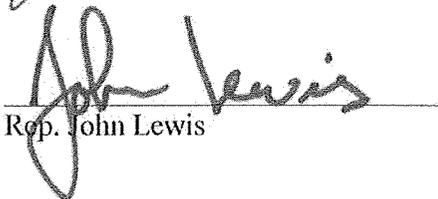
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Rep. Leonard Lance



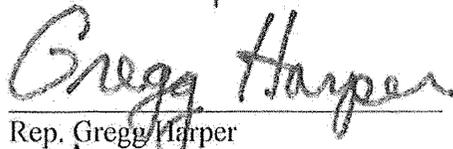
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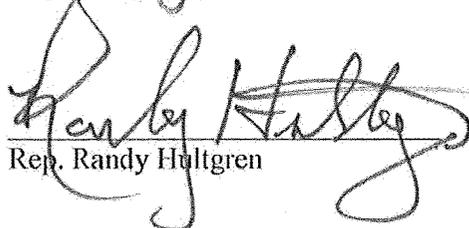
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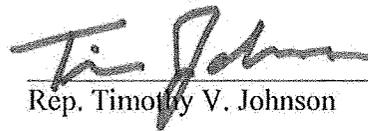
Rep. Colleen W. Hanabusa



Rep. Gregg Harper



Rep. Randy Hultgren



Rep. Timothy V. Johnson



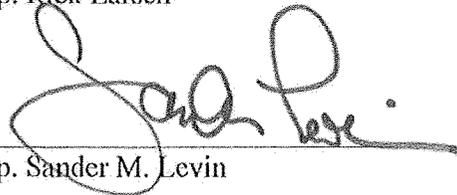
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Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich



Rep. Rick Larsen

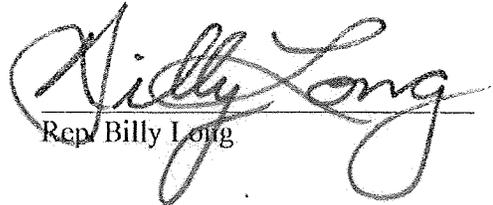


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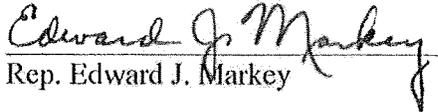
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Rep. David Loebbeck

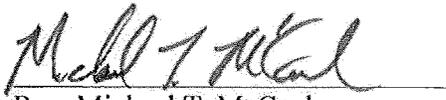
  
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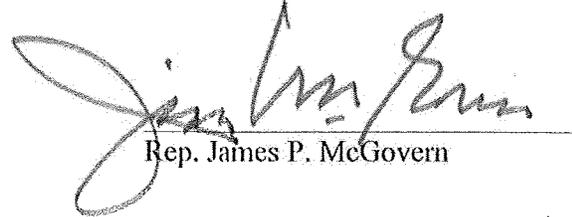
  
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Rep. Tom Marino

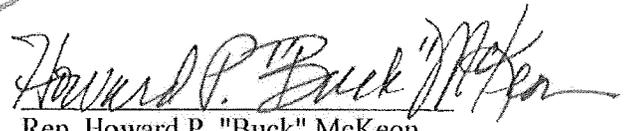
  
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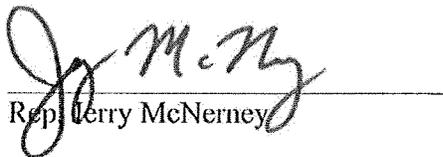
  
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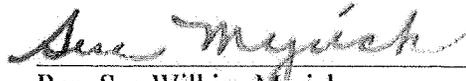
  
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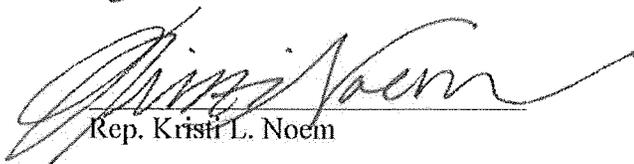
  
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Rep. Mike McIntyre

  
Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon

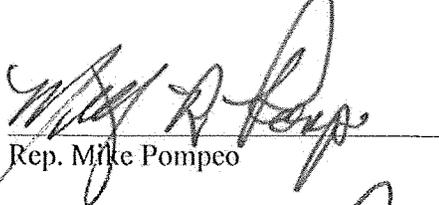
  
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Rep. Sue Wilkins Myrick

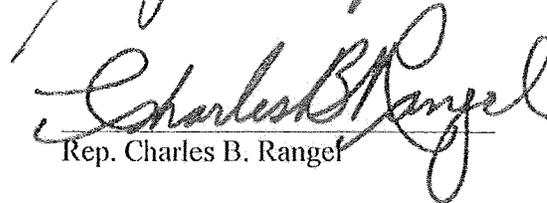
  
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Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton

  
Rep. Pete Olson

  
Rep. Mike Pompeo

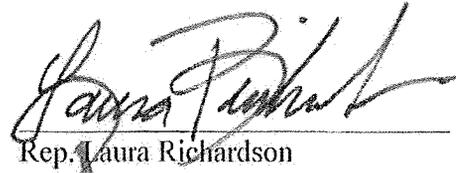
  
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Rep. Charles B. Rangel

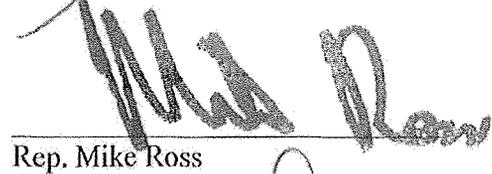
  
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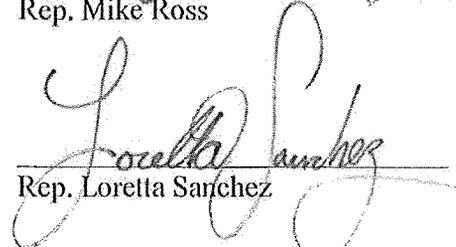
  
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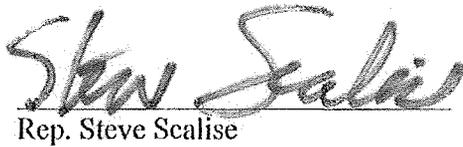
  
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Rep. Todd Rokita

  
Rep. Mike Ross

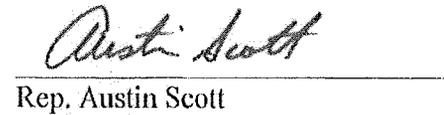
  
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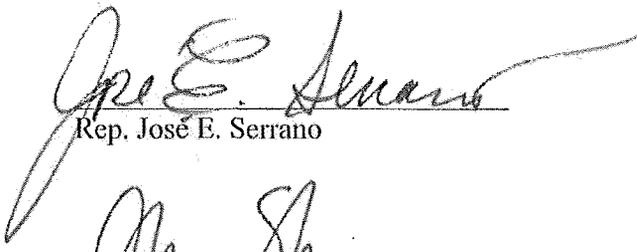
  
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Rep. Steve Scalise

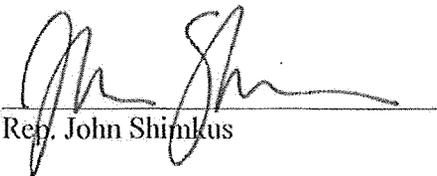
  
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Rep. Aaron Schock

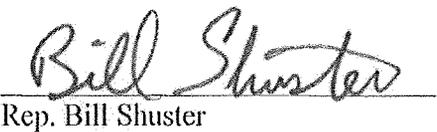
  
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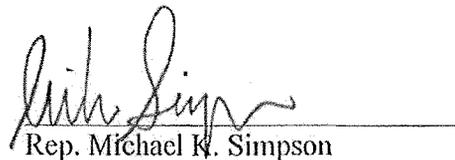
  
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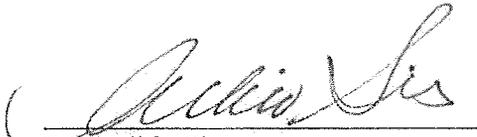
  
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Rep. John Shimkus

  
Rep. Heath Shuler

  
Rep. Bill Shuster

  
Rep. Michael K. Simpson

  
Rep. Albio Sires

  
Rep. Adrian Smith

  
Rep. Jackie Speier

  
Rep. Fortney Pete Stark

  
Rep. Glenn Thompson

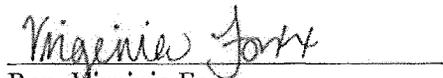
  
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Rep. Scott R. Tipton

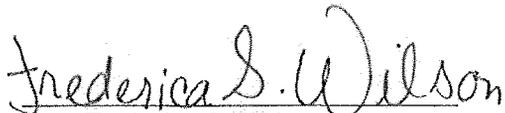
  
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Rep. Edolphus Towns

  
Rep. Niki Tsongas

  
Rep. Virginia Foxx

  
Rep. Daniel Webster

  
Rep. Frederica S. Wilson

  
Rep. Steve Womack

  
Rep. Todd C. Young

  
Rep. Mike Conaway

  
Rep. Dan Lungren

  
Rep. Richard Nugent

  
Rep. Marsha Blackburn

  
Rep. Cliff Stearns

  
Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

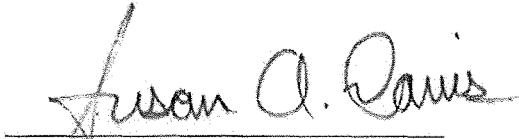
  
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Rep. Lou Barletta

  
Rep. Mary Hono Mack

  
Rep. Dan Boren

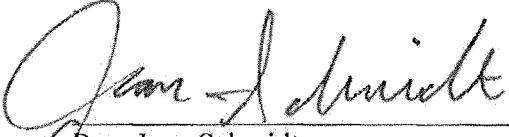
  
Rep. Ander Crenshaw

  
Rep. Susan A. Davis

  
Rep. Lloyd Doggett

  
Rep. Bob Goodlatte

  
Rep. Stevan Pearce

  
Rep. Jean Schmidt

  
Rep. Robert J. Wittman

  
Rep. David Wu

  
Rep. Norman Dicks

  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler

  
Rep. Charles W. Dent