

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

The statutory deadline for the full implementation of positive train control (PTC) safety technology is rapidly approaching, and it is clear that our nation's passenger and freight railroads are unable to meet the deadline. To avert a major disruption of passenger and freight rail service that will have far reaching consequences for American commuters, businesses, and our economy, Congress must act now to extend the upcoming PTC deadline with a clear timeline that keeps railroads accountable and allows for the responsible implementation of this critical safety technology.

Implementing positive train control is vitally important to ensuring that our national rail system provides the utmost level of safety for the millions of passengers around the country that depend on rail to travel and get to work every day and the thousands of American businesses that rely on rail to move their goods. However, when this technology was mandated in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, the arbitrary deadline set by Congress for implementation did not reflect the high costs and technological challenges of developing and deploying the new technology on approximately 60,000 miles of track around the country.

Despite numerous challenges, railroads have made great strides towards implementation. To date, the freight industry has invested more than \$5 billion with another \$4 billion set to be spent to complete installation. Our already cash strapped public commuter railroads have spent over \$950 million on PTC and conservative estimates are that \$3.48 billion more is needed to get the job done. Despite that need, Congress has only appropriated \$50 million for this priority safety mandate, and half of the country's commuter railroads are being forced to defer other safety and capital improvements in order to afford the costs of PTC.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirms what commuter railroads, the freight industry, and numerous government agencies have warned for years: the upcoming statutory deadline is unrealistic, and despite the best efforts of freight and passenger rail, implementing PTC nationwide by the end of this year is simply impossible.

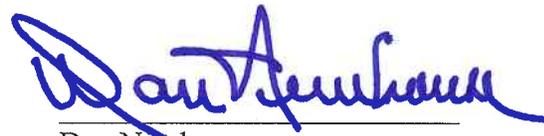
Unless Congress acts soon to extend the deadline, passenger and freight railroads will have to shut down operations around the country. Without congressional action, the hundreds of thousands of passengers who rely on commuter rail to get to work every day will have to find alternate means of travel, crowding already congested roads, increasing costs to local communities, and disproportionately affecting low income Americans. Shutting down the

country's freight network would also have devastating consequences to our nation's economy, affecting thousands of businesses across a wide spectrum of industries and producing shortages of essential goods. The shutdown could make it difficult for cities to purify drinking water without the availability of chlorine and for farmers to tend to their crops without access to fertilizer.

Given the widespread impact to our economy, we believe this matter requires immediate attention. Due to complex logistics, Americans could begin to see the effects of the disruption weeks prior to the deadline with railroads, shippers, and agricultural suppliers stopping operations and closing facilities in early December or sooner. Congress cannot afford to wait until the last minute to act and should explore all legislative options to get the job done as soon as possible. Only Congress has the authority to extend the deadline and avert a major disruption of passenger and freight rail service. We must act now to extend the upcoming PTC deadline while holding passenger and freight railroads accountable and providing them with a clear plan for implementing this vital safety technology.

Sincerely,


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Ralph Lee Abraham
Member of Congress



Diane Black
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Rod Blum
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



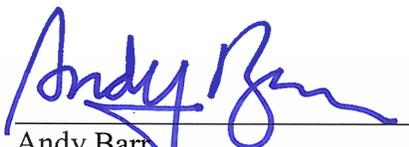
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



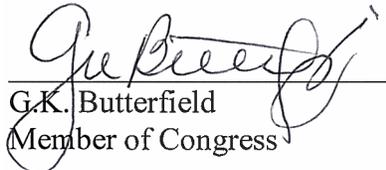
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



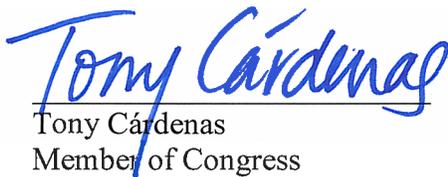
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



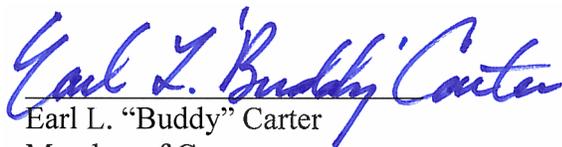
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



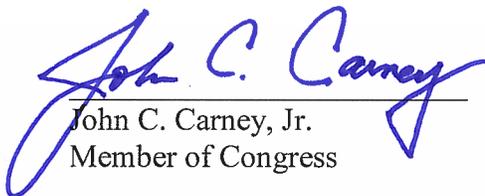
Doug Collins
Member of Congress



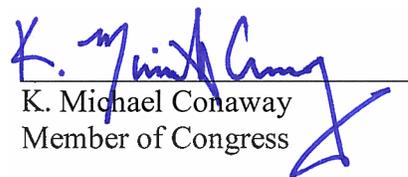
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



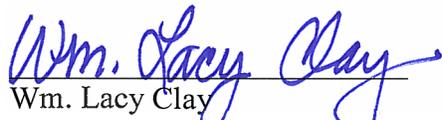
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



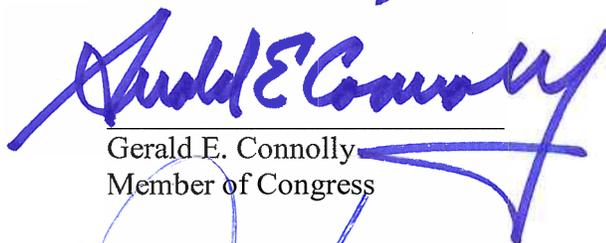
John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



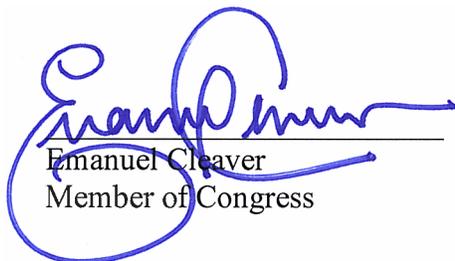
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



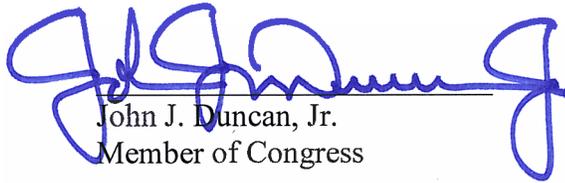
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



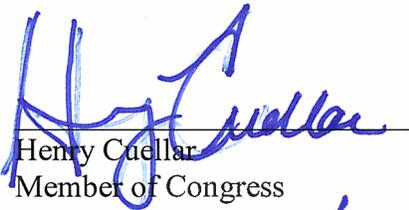
John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cresent Hardy
Member of Congress



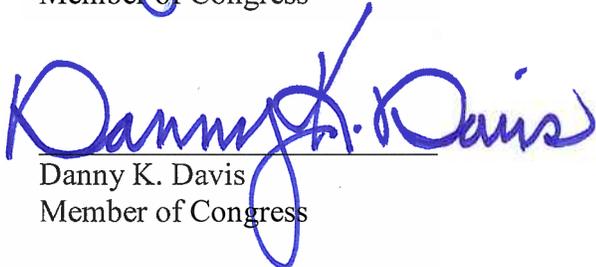
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



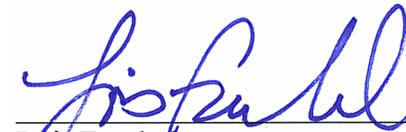
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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Rodney Davis
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Lois Frankel
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Suzan K. DelBene
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John Garamendi
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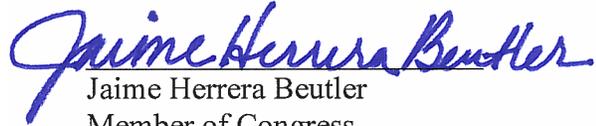
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



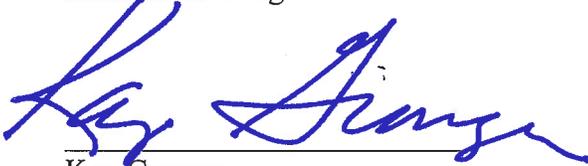
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



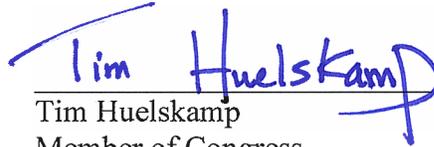
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



J. French Hill
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Sam Graves
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Tim Huelskamp
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Glenn Grothman
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Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
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Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

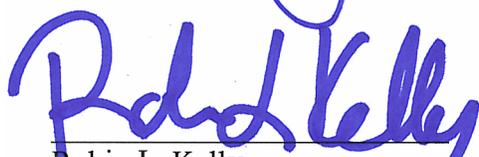

Raúl R. Labrador
Member of Congress

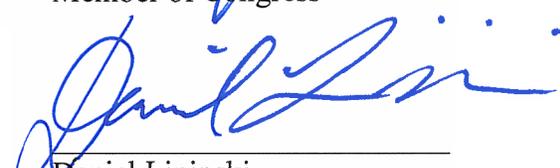

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

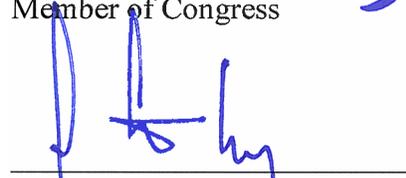

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress


Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

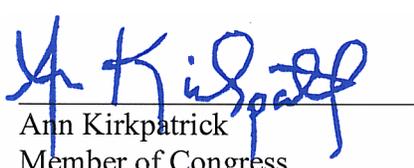

Billy Long
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

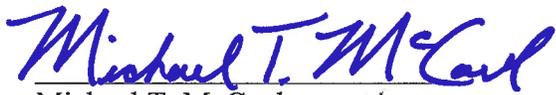

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress


Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

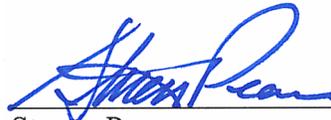

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

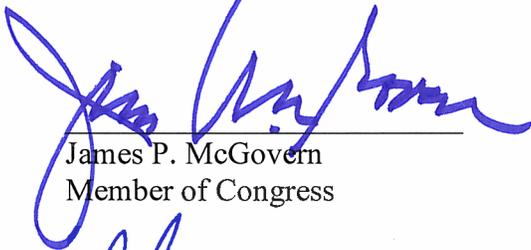

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



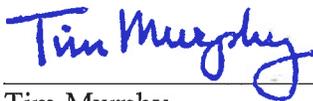
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



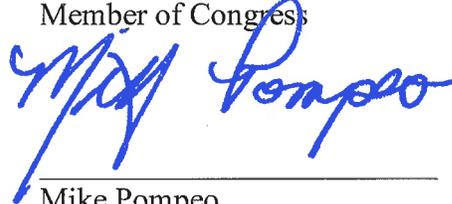
Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



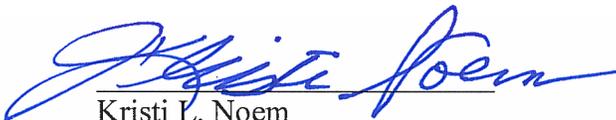
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



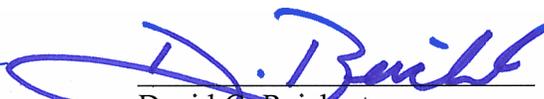
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



Kristi L. Noem
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress

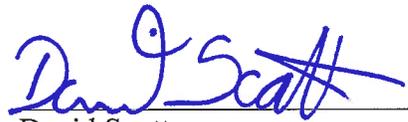


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



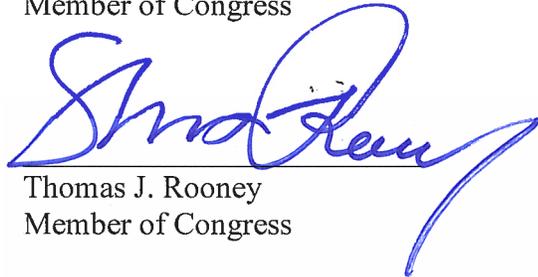
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress


E. Scott Rigell
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress


David P. Roe
Member of Congress


John Shimkus
Member of Congress

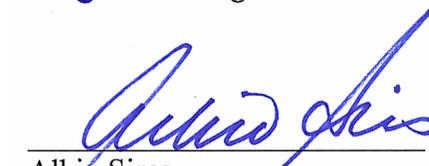

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

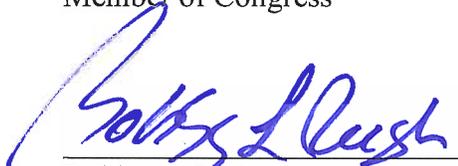

Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress

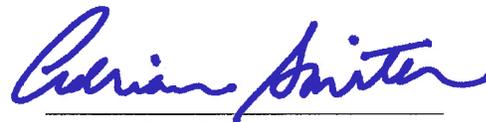

David Rouzer
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

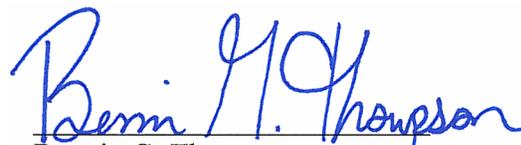

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

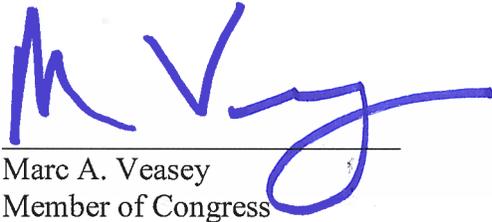

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

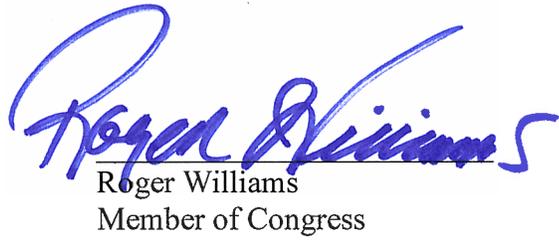

Jason Smith
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



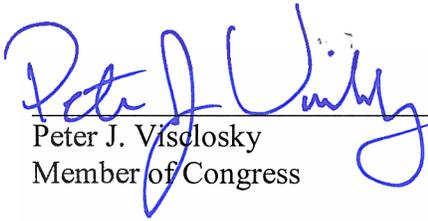
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



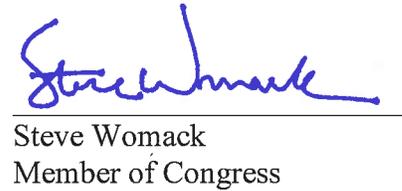
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



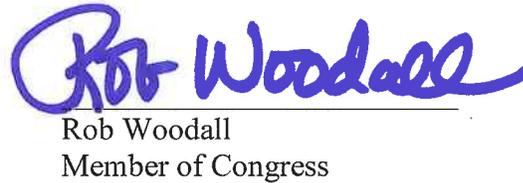
Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



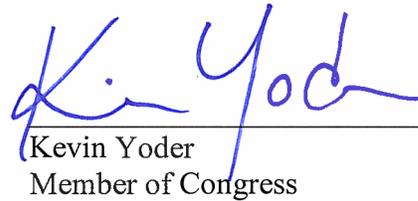
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



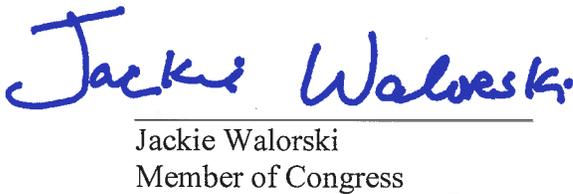
Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



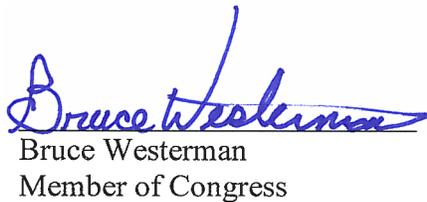
Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



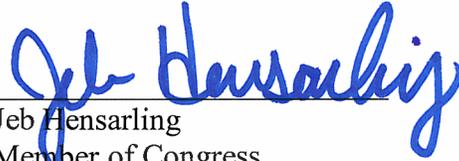
Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



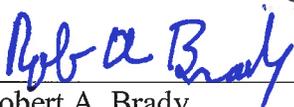
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



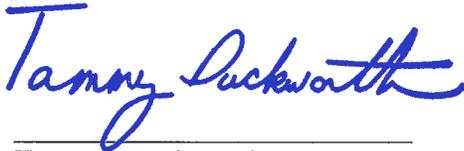
Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



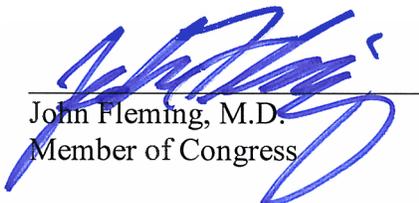
Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



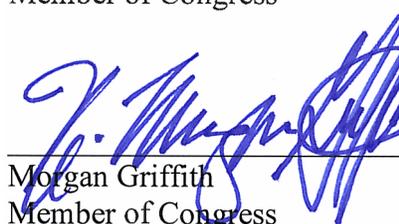
Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



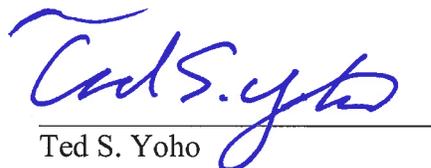
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



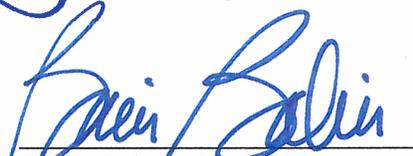
Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

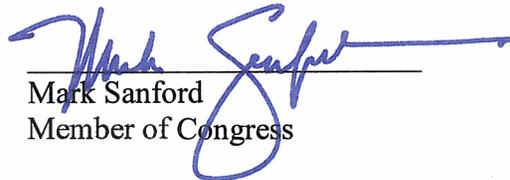


Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress


Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

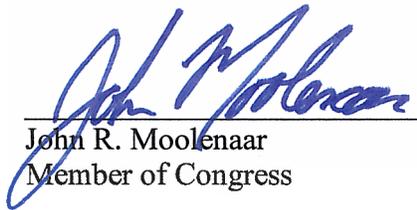

Martha McSally
Member of Congress


Brian Babin, DDS
Member of Congress


Mark Sanford
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

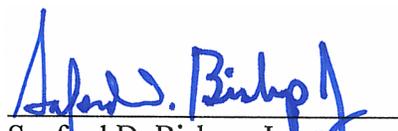

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress


Mike Bost
Member of Congress

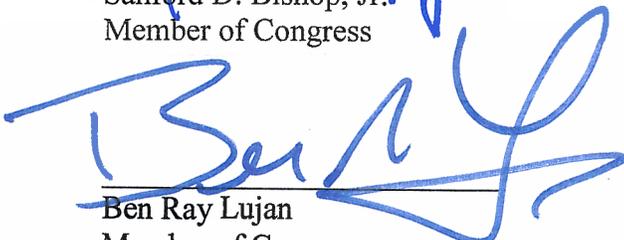

Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress