

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2025

Arne B. Baker
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
1700 North Moore Street (SA-39)
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Acting Inspector General Baker:

We write to request an investigation into waste and mismanagement on the part of the U.S. Department of State, which has reportedly chosen to destroy nearly 500 metric tons of emergency food aid and \$9.7 million worth of contraceptives rather than delivering the much-needed aid as intended.

According to reporting, the State Department intends to destroy roughly \$800,000 worth of high-energy biscuits intended to feed children under five years of age.¹ That comes after alleged severe mismanagement of the food aid, including multiple officials failing to respond to memos regarding future plans for the biscuits for months.² After that failure of leadership, the Department now plans to spend \$130,000 – on top of the original \$800,000 – to incinerate the planned food aid.³

Following a similar pattern, the State Department also reportedly still intends to destroy \$9.7 million of contraceptives, including IUDs and birth control implants, at the cost of \$167,000 to the American taxpayer.⁴ Concerningly, the reporting found that these contraceptives are perfectly viable for delivery; they are long-lasting, with an expiration date of 2027, and most do not include USAID labels that would require rebranding.⁵ Incinerating contraceptives that are viable, with no rush and clear demand, is the equivalent of lighting U.S. taxpayer dollars on fire.

This pattern of intentional incineration at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer is financially wasteful, morally bankrupt, and an attack on the American humanitarian tradition. These actions place ideological beliefs and politics above a faithful commitment to U.S. law, contracts, and humanitarian agreements. Given that these officials have given no indication that they will place the law over their personal vendettas against our humanitarian tradition, external oversight is necessary.

¹ [The Trump Administration Is About to Incinerate 500 Tons of Emergency Food | The Atlantic](#)

² *Ibid.*

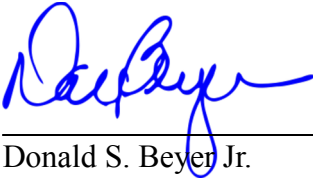
³ *Ibid.*

⁴ [Trump administration to destroy nearly \\$10m of contraceptives for women overseas | The Guardian](#)

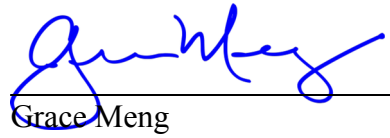
⁵ *Ibid.*

We therefore request that your office immediately open an investigation into this documented waste of existing State Department supplies and waste of additional taxpayer funds to destroy those supplies, as well as the Department's refusal to use these commodities for their intended purposes or partner with organizations or countries willing to take on responsibility for these commodities. Please provide an update on the status of such investigation by August 8, 2025.

Sincerely,



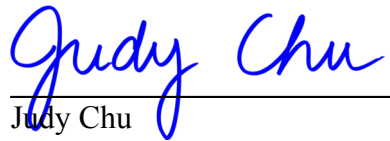
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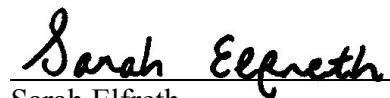
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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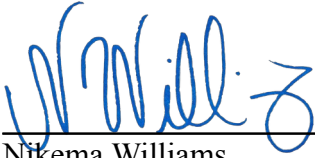
Betty McCollum
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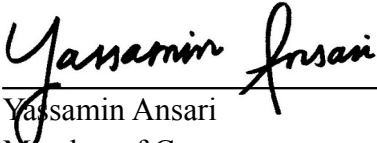
Sarah Elfreth
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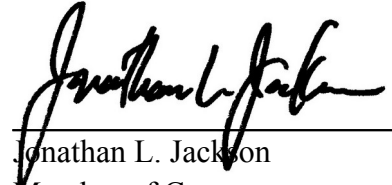
Nikema Williams
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Yassamin Ansari
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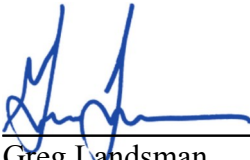
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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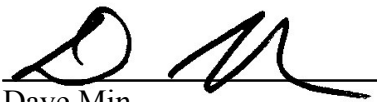
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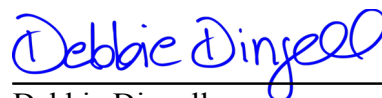
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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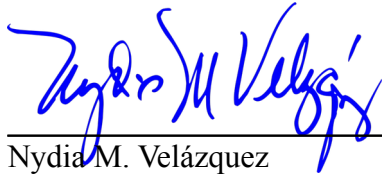
Chellie Pingree
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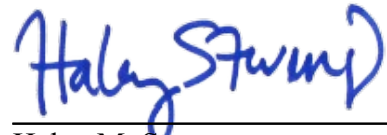
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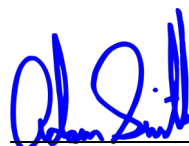
Suzan K. DelBene
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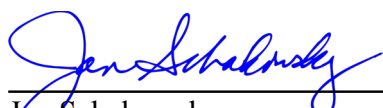
Julia Brownley
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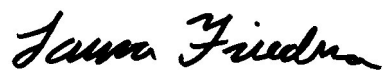
Adam Smith
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Jan Schakowsky
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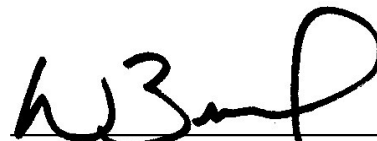
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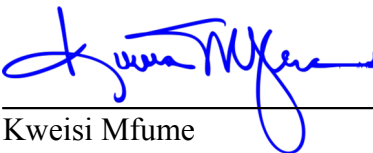
Chrissy Houlahan
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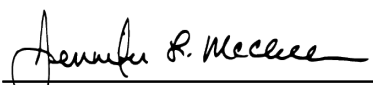
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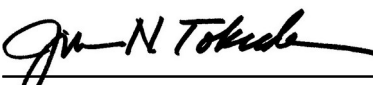
Brittany Pettersen
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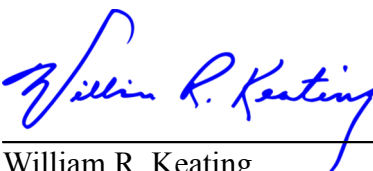
Julie Johnson
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Andre Carson
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Jim Tokuda
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William R. Keating
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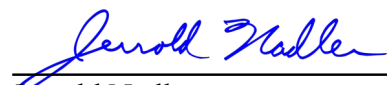
Ed Case
Member of Congress



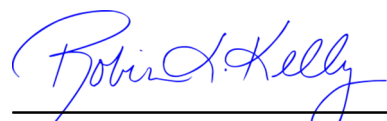
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