

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Rogers and Simpson and Ranking Members Cartwright and Pingree:

As you begin the process of crafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriation bills, we desperately need increased funding at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for endangered species conservation, including Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing, planning and consultation, species conservation and restoration, and species recovery. Specifically, we request \$486.19 million across FWS and NMFS for FY25 to recover and conserve our Nation's most imperiled species.

The world is in the midst of a staggering and unprecedented biodiversity crisis. Once common wildlife and plant populations are crashing around the world, and scientists warn that one million animal and plant species are heading towards extinction, many in the next few decades, due to habitat loss, climate change, wildlife exploitation, and other human activities. Insects and other important pollinators are rapidly declining. Butterfly species across the American West are in a fast decline as the region becomes hotter and drier. In North America alone, scientists estimate that bird populations have declined by more than 25% percent in the since 1970, and globally nearly one-third of freshwater fish are threatened with extinction.

Importantly, the resilience and health of wildlife and ecosystems are directly related to human health and well-being. As one example, half a trillion dollars of crops per year are at risk from pollinator loss. Ecosystem services from fisheries to water filtration and more are all at grave risk from the damage to natural systems. Moreover, the World Economic Forum Global Risk report for 2024 identifies biodiversity loss as the third most severe risk to the global economy over the next ten years.<sup>1</sup> This loss is also at the root of devastating zoonotic diseases, which result from the spillover of zoonotic pathogens from wildlife to humans, including SARS, Ebola, and HIV. Such spillover events are increasing in frequency, driven by deforestation and land degradation, and wildlife trade.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_Global\\_Risks\\_Report\\_2024.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2024.pdf)

Fortunately, the U.S. Endangered Species Act is one of the strongest tools we have to combat the current wildlife extinction crisis. In enacting the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Congress recognized that imperiled species of wildlife, fish and plants “are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.” Congress gave the FWS and NMFS a powerful set of tools to carry out the law’s goal of conserving endangered species.

Thousands of animal and plant species depend on the Endangered Species Act for survival, yet it has been systematically and severely underfunded for decades. The need for increased funding is evident from the over 400 threatened and endangered species that lack recovery plans, as well as the hundreds of species that receive zero dollars in recovery funding from any agency – federal or state. Congressional appropriations for recovery and consultation have simply not kept pace with the number of listed species or the complex challenges of conservation in a world facing the accelerating threats of climate change and habitat loss. Inadequate funding not only puts at risk the recovery of threatened and endangered species and conservation of their habitats; it also impedes FWS and NMFS’s ability to apply the best scientific knowledge available in a timely review of listing decisions for species in need of protection.

Unfortunately, animals and plants continue to go extinct in the United States while waiting for the Act’s protections. Implementing recovery strategies and partner activities in an effective manner requires both a significant commitment and sufficient resources. Strong funding for Ecological Services supports FWS’s work with partners at the state and local level both to recover listed species and protect their habitats. Similarly, funding for NMFS Protected Resources Science and Management program is crucial for the protection and recovery of imperiled marine species.

For FY25, we request the following funding:

- \$412.71 million for FWS ecological services
- \$73.48 million for FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
- \$361.3 million for NMFS ESA Programs

This funding is critical to save more species from extinction and put America’s imperiled animals and plants on the path to recovery. We look forward to working with the Subcommittees to ensure that these programs are adequately funded in FY25.

Sincerely,



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Natural Resources



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



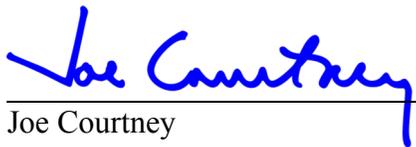
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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



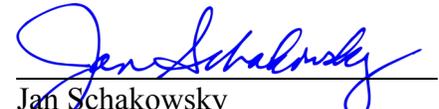
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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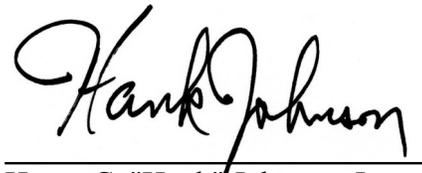
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



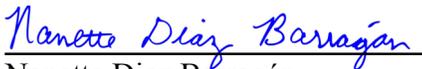
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



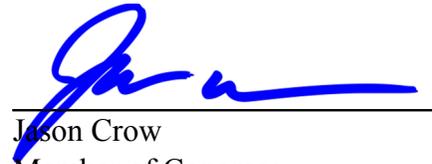
Summer Lee  
Member of Congress



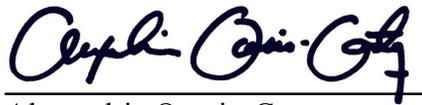
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



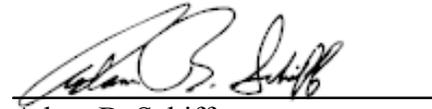
Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



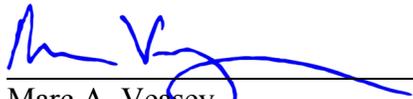
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



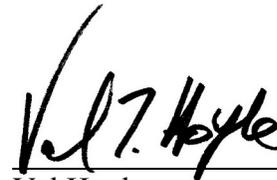
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



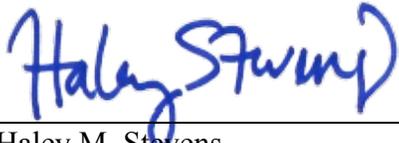
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



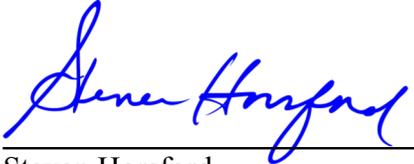
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's Fourth Congressional  
District



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress



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Jil Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



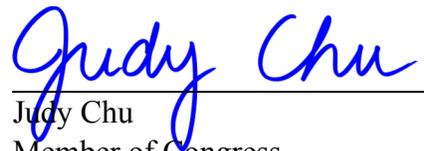
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



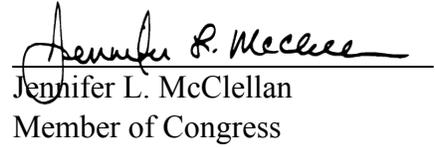
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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



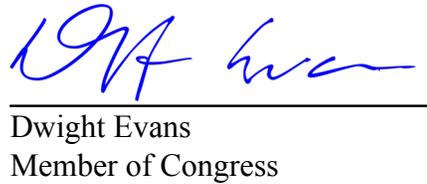
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



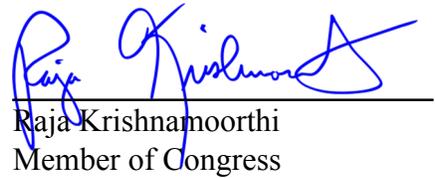
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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



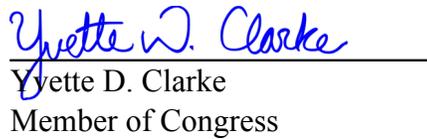
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



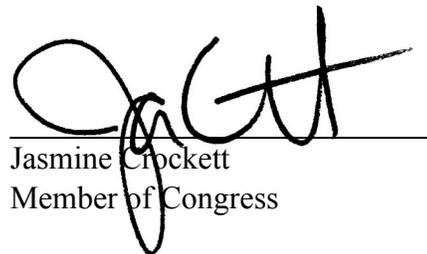
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



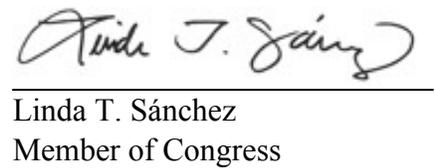
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



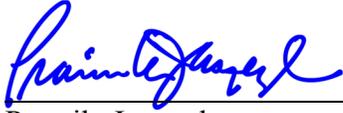
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



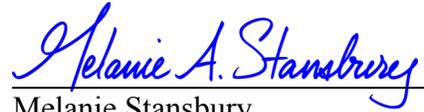
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



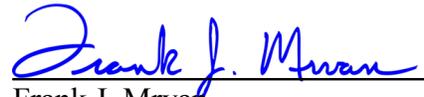
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Mary Sattler Peltola  
Member of Congress



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Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



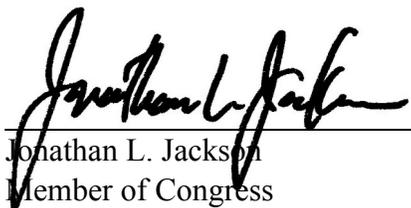
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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



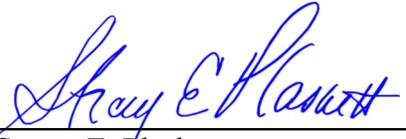
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



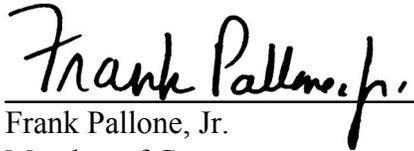
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



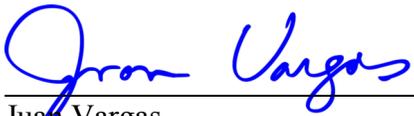
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



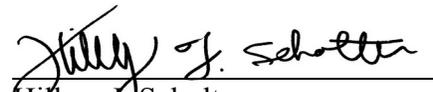
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



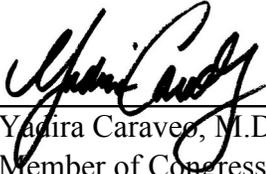
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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



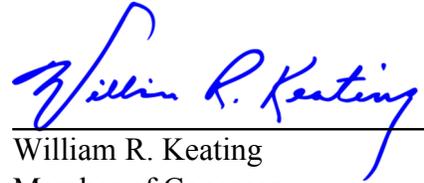
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Jeff Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



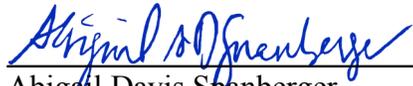
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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



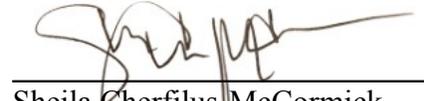
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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress