

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 1, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

As Members of Congress committed to a comprehensive domestic energy strategy, we encourage the Department of the Interior (DOI) to proceed with a new Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 that establishes a rigorous lease sale schedule in the Gulf of Mexico, but also expands opportunity for development to areas not included in the last plan – such as the vast acreage that was opened in 2008 when both the Presidential and Legislative moratoria on offshore drilling expired. A broad, bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives and the American public have long supported increased development of our nation's OCS resources. This commitment has been repeatedly demonstrated by passage of legislation that expands access to these new areas, while continuing leasing in existing areas. We wish to see a Five Year Outer Continental Shelf leasing program that reflects these important principles.

The commencement of this program occurs at a critical time in our country's resurgence as an energy superpower. Increasing onshore production on state and private lands is helping to pull our nation out of a recession and driving down our trade deficit. At the state and local level in Pennsylvania, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota and many others, economic activity related to energy production is creating thousands of jobs and generating increased revenues that are being reinvested in public education, transportation projects, and other municipal improvements. The energy boom on state and private lands stands as a paradigm of our nation's entrepreneurial spirit. There is no reason why we cannot replicate this vigorous job growth in more states by opening new OCS areas for development as was envisioned in 2008 when the moratoria on the OCS was lifted in a bipartisan fashion between the then Democrat Majority House and President Bush.

Since the 1950s, the Gulf of Mexico has been the world's preeminent area for offshore drilling alongside thriving fishing and tourism industries. This is where the technological innovation behind pursuing deepwater resources was born and where it has flourished. Today, over 60 years later, the playing field has significantly changed. Countries like Canada, Mexico and China are ramping up their efforts to develop their offshore resources and directly competing with the United States. Simply put: the status quo will not suffice. By producing more American energy from our OCS resources, we can help to insulate our nation from global price shocks and put the United States and our allies on a more secure path.

As you consider areas to include in the 2017-2022 Draft Proposed Program, we note that the administration and the Department of the Interior have made considerable changes to the structure and regulations that govern offshore energy development to enhance safety. The industry has also stepped up with the development of best practices and technologies focused on the areas of spill

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

prevention, containment, and recovery. We are confident that these changes will allow offshore exploration and development to proceed in an environmentally responsible way.

For these many reasons, we believe the Department must move forward with a Five Year Program that continues to lease in the Gulf of Mexico but also includes new areas with the greatest resource potential as well as areas such as the Mid- and South-Atlantic, or the Arctic, where there is strong bipartisan support from members of Congress, governors, state legislators, local leaders and the general public for allowing oil and natural gas development. With the formation of the 2017-2022 Five Year Program, this administration will be responsible for a decade of offshore lease planning; a legacy of leasing in existing areas will not put our nation's offshore energy production on sound footing. We cannot afford to pass up this pivotal opportunity to expand safe and responsible OCS energy development.

It is our sincere hope that you will demonstrate a similar commitment to our nation's energy future by crafting a program that increases offshore production in new areas to create more American jobs, provide much-needed federal and local government revenue, and fortify our nation's growing position as an energy leader.

Sincerely,



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Scott Rigell  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



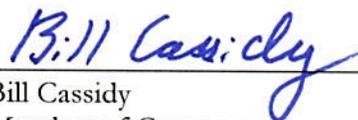
Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

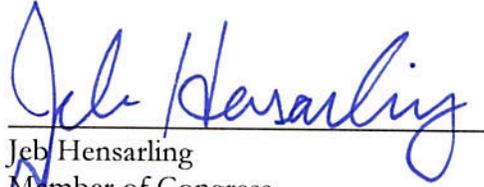


Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

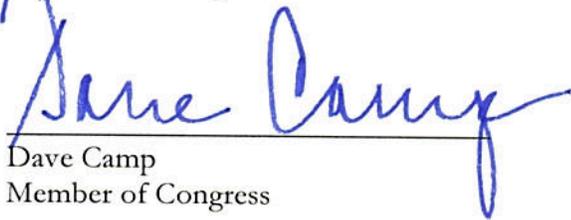


Bill Cassidy  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

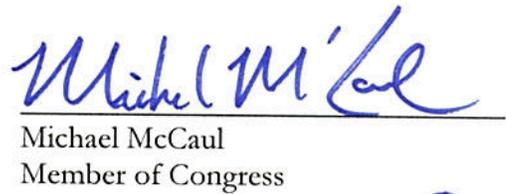
  
Jeb Hensarling  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress

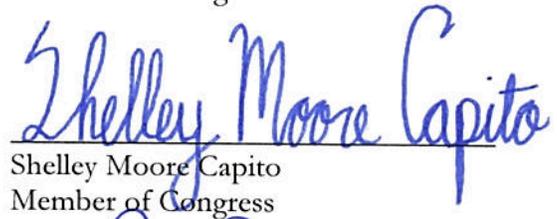
  
Dave Camp  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

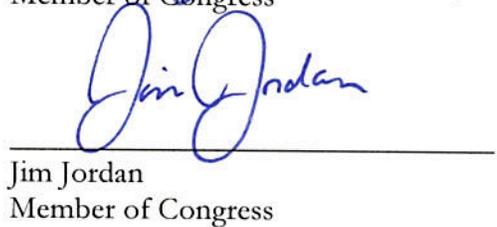
  
Tom Cotton  
Member of Congress

  
Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress

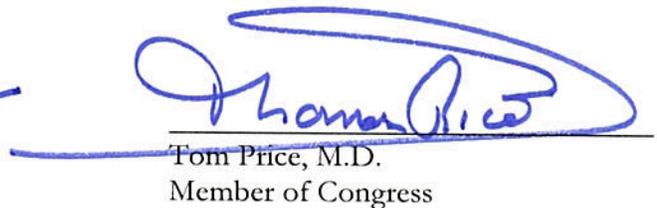
  
Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress

  
Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress

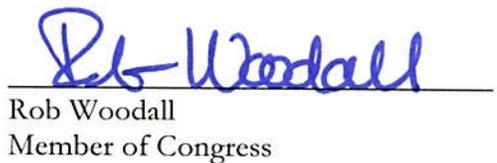
  
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

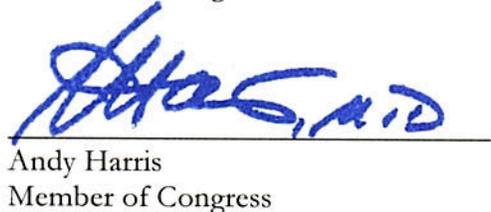
  
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

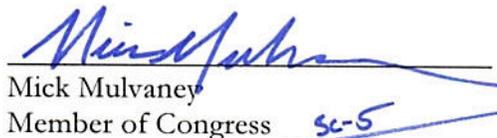
  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Price, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

  
Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress

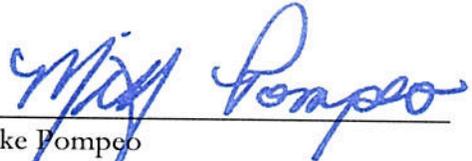
  
Andy Harris  
Member of Congress

  
Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress

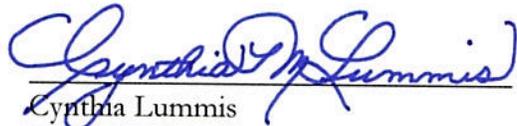
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Patrick Tiberi  
Member of Congress



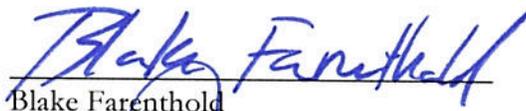
Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis  
Member of Congress



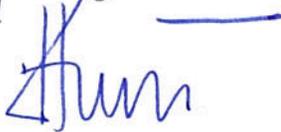
Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt  
Member of Congress



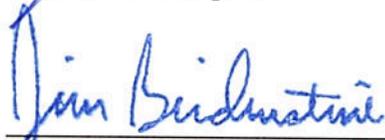
Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress



Joe Heck, D.O.  
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

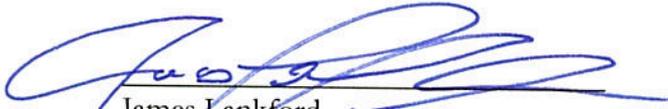


Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress



Peter Roskam  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



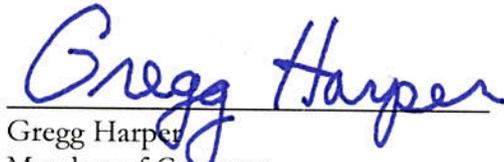
---

James Lankford  
Member of Congress



---

Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



---

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress



---

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



---

Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress



---

Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress



---

Steve Palazzo  
Member of Congress



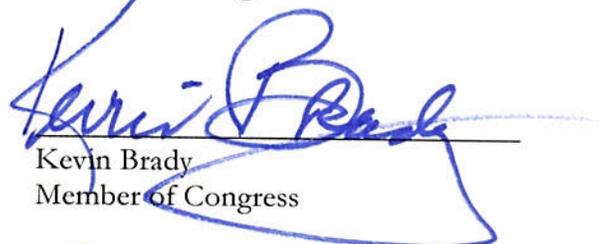
---

Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



---

Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



---

Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



---

Vance McAllister  
Member of Congress



---

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



---

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



---

Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

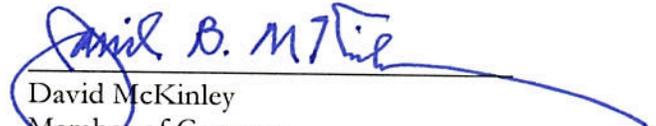


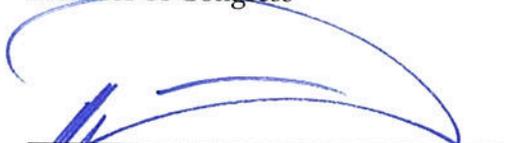
---

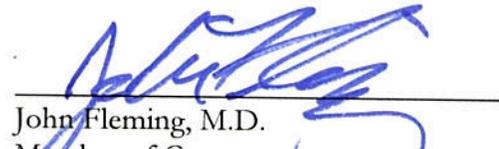
John Carter  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

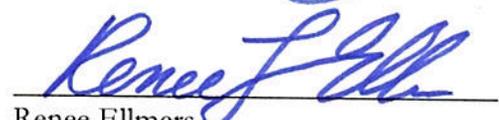
  
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

  
David McKinley  
Member of Congress

  
Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress

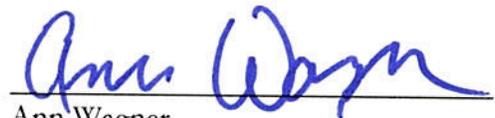
  
John Fleming, M.D.  
Member of Congress

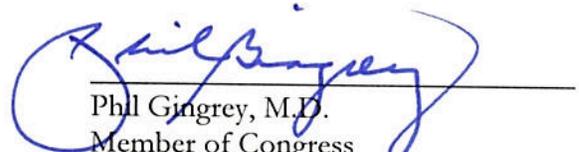
  
Joe Pitts  
Member of Congress

  
Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress

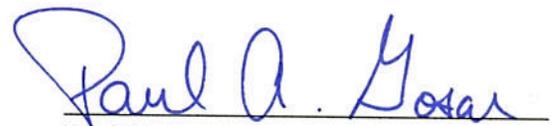
  
Tom Graves  
Member of Congress

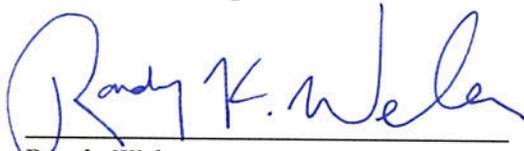
  
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress

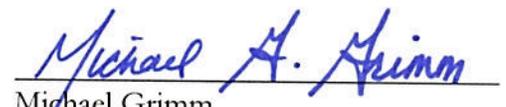
  
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

  
Phil Gingrey, M.D.  
Member of Congress

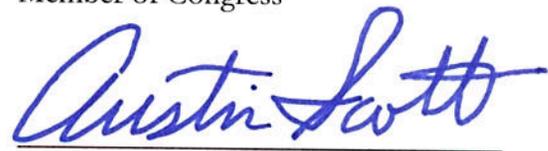
  
Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress

  
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Grimm  
Member of Congress

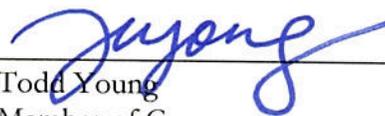
  
Doug Collins  
Member of Congress

  
Austin Scott  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



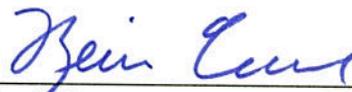
David Valadao  
Member of Congress



Todd Young  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



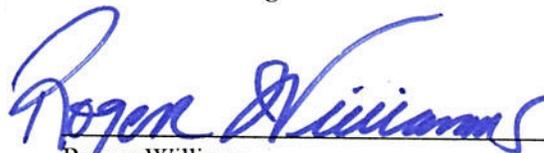
Chris Collins  
Member of Congress



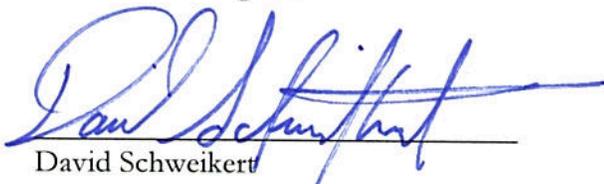
Stephen Fincher  
Member of Congress



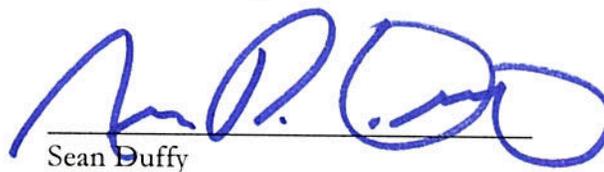
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



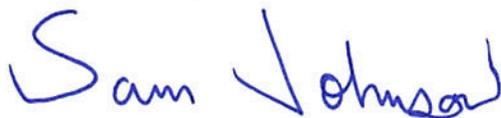
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



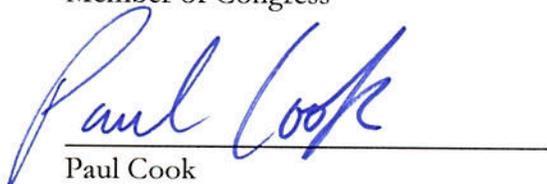
Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



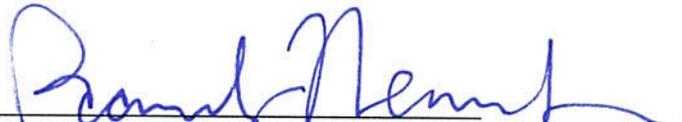
Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress



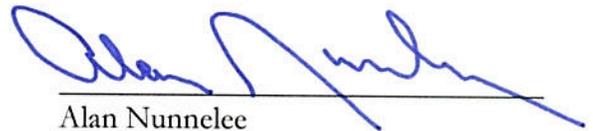
Trey Gowdy  
Member of Congress



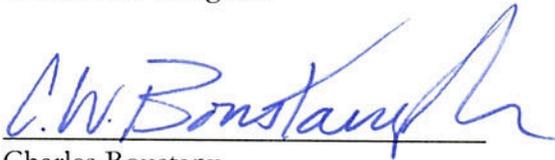
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



Randy Neugebauer  
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress



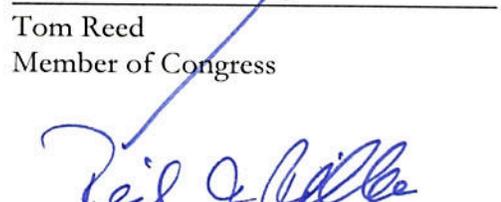
Charles Boustany  
Member of Congress



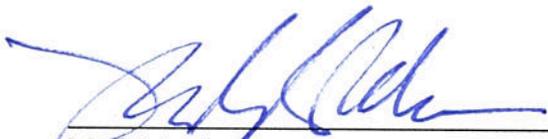
Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks  
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



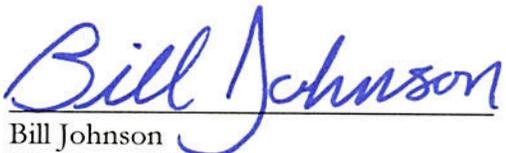
Raul Labrador  
Member of Congress



Diane Black  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress

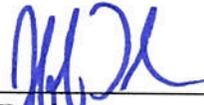


Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

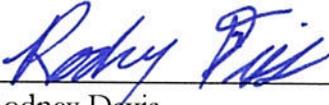
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



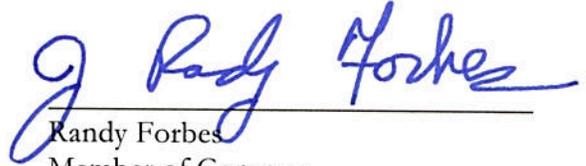
Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



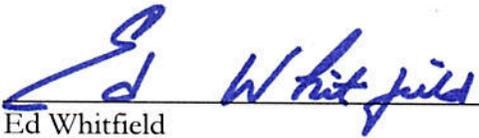
Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



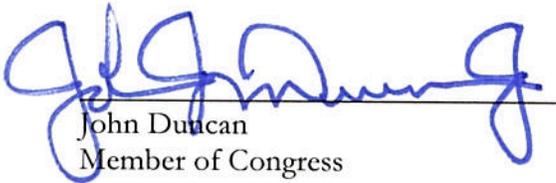
Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



Howard Coble  
Member of Congress



John Duncan  
Member of Congress



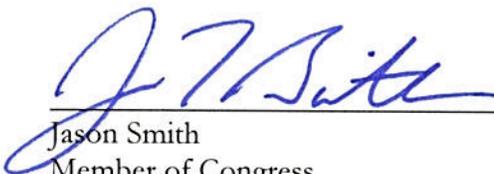
Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

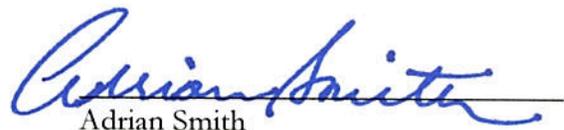


Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



M.C.

Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Lee Terry  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



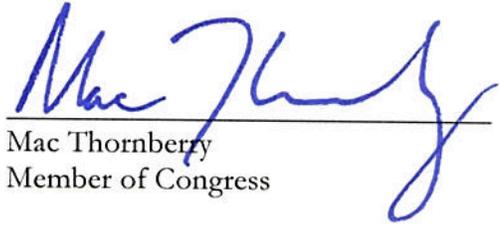
Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress



John Campbell  
Member of Congress



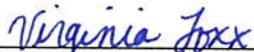
Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



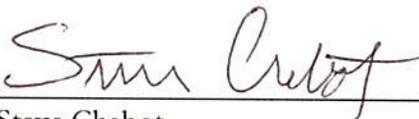
Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



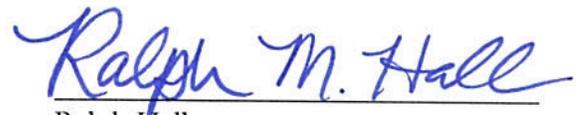
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



John Culberson  
Member of Congress



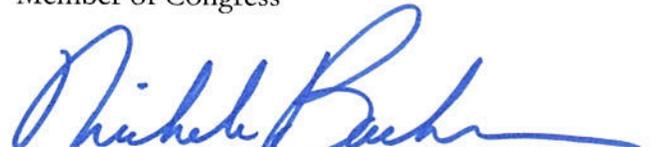
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



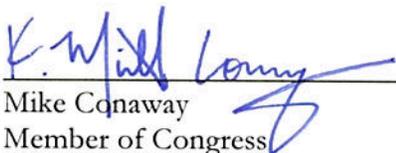
Ralph Hall  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress

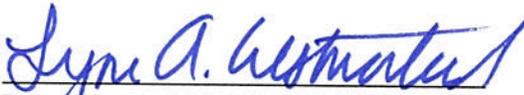


Mike Conaway  
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress

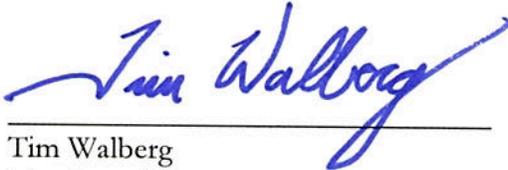
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



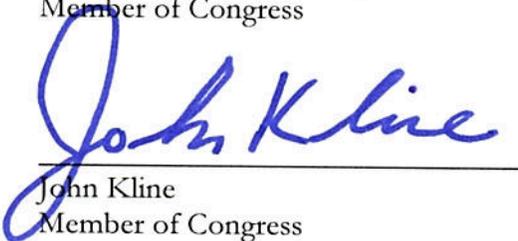
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



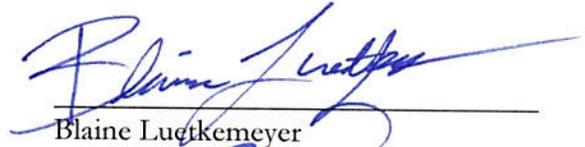
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Paul Broun  
Member of Congress



John Kline  
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Bob Latta  
Member of Congress



John Shimkus  
Member of Congress



Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress



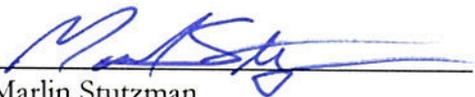
Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



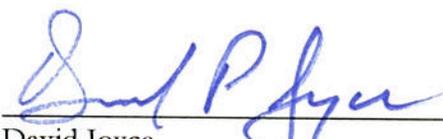
Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman  
Member of Congress



David Joyce  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Kerry Bentivolio  
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress



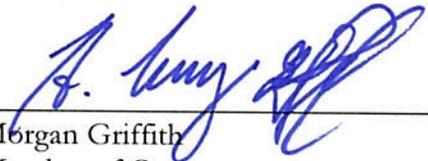
Martha Roby  
Member of Congress



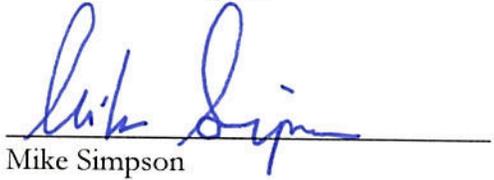
Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Steve Daines  
Member of Congress



Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



James Sensenbrenner  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



Luke Messer  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr  
Member of Congress