

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Majority Leader Hoyer,

We write to you requesting you permit the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to fulfill its responsibility and publish a full cost estimate for the fiscal year 2022 reconciliation bill, H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act, before the House of Representatives considers and votes on this legislation.

For months, Congress has been engaged in ongoing debate about what will be included in the reconciliation bill and its overall cost. While we the undersigned have serious concerns with the portions of the bill that we have seen, certainly we should all be able to agree that Members of Congress should have a full accounting of how this bill will impact spending, deficits, and debt now and in the future. To date, CBO has provided estimates for less than ten percent of the bill reported by the Budget Committee. Based on the available estimates, three authorizing committees have exceeded their respective reconciliation targets.

As we approach the end of the year without having completed the annual appropriations process as well as facing a looming debt ceiling cliff, it would be unconscionable to commit to the purported trillions of dollars that the reconciliation bill might cost without knowing its true price tag. Given that the price of this bill makes it the most expensive piece of legislation in American history, it is imperative Members of Congress are not asked to vote on it until a full cost estimate is available for their review.

The Administration claims that the plan will add nothing to the federal deficit. Given the policies that may or may not be included in the final package at this point, we find that difficult to believe. According to some estimates, the current form of the reconciliation bill would add as much as \$3 trillion to our national debt, which already sits at more than \$28 trillion.

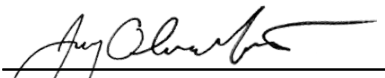
Our nation is also experiencing record levels of inflation, and many economists cite increased federal spending as a root cause. Inflation is on pace to exceed 7 percent this year – the highest it's been in forty years. Americans are facing increased costs for everyday necessities – gas prices are up 58 percent, meat prices are up 14.5 percent, clothing prices are up 10.5 percent, and coffee prices are up 6.1 percent. All Americans are experiencing this inflation crisis, particularly working-class families. As Congress considers spending trillions more of American taxpayer

dollars, then as stewards of the public trust we should not commit to do so until a full accounting of this legislation's potential fiscal impact is available, both in the short and over the long term. Giving the CBO time to provide Congress with this critical analysis will ensure we know the potential impact of this legislation before making this critical decision.

Allowing the CBO to do its job before a vote on this legislation will help answer these questions. Both the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and House Rule XIII require a formal score of this bill prior to House consideration. It would be both imprudent and a disservice to Congress and the American people to ignore these requirements given the broad scope and reported cost of this legislation.

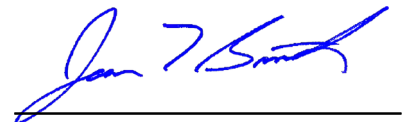
We thank you for your consideration of this request and hope you will give Congress and the American people a chance to know what the reconciliation bill will cost before voting on it.

Sincerely,




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Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress




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Jason Smith  
Member of Congress




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Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader



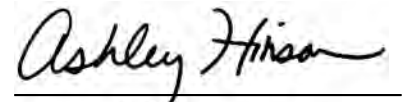
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Steve Scalise  
Republican Whip



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



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Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



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Bob Good  
Member of Congress



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Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



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Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



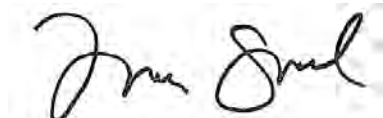
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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



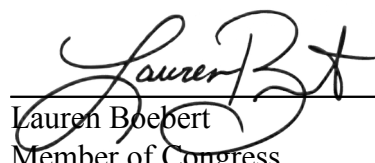
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David B. McKinley P.E.  
Member of Congress



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Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress




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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



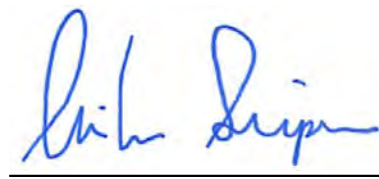
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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress




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Michael K. Simpson  
Member of Congress



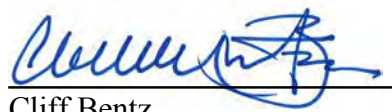
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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress




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Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress




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Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress




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Mike Garcia  
Member of Congress



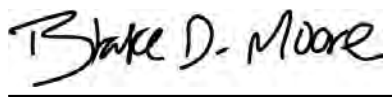
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Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



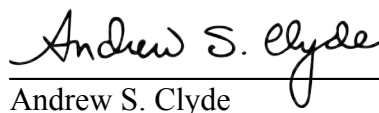
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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



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Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



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Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Matthew Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress



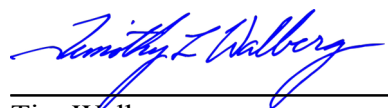
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Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress



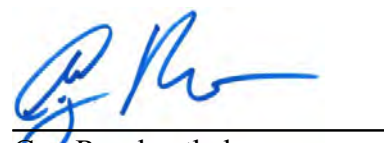
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Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



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Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



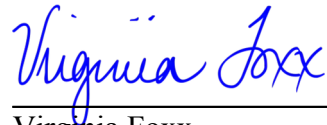
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Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



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Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



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Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



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Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



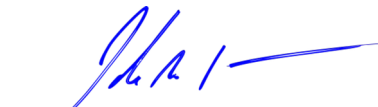
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



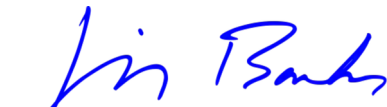
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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



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John R. Curtis  
Member of Congress



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Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



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Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress



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Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



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Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



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Ron Estes  
Member of Congress



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Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



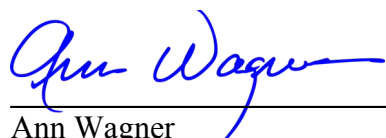
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



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Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



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Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



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Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



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Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



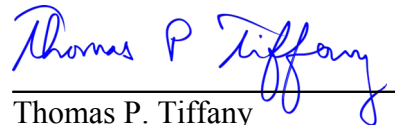
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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



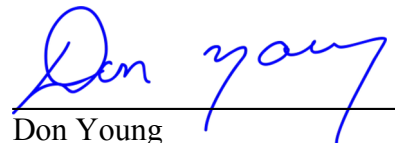
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Thomas P. Tiffany  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Don Young  
Member of Congress





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Gary J. Palmer  
Member of Congress



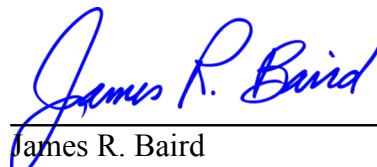
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Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



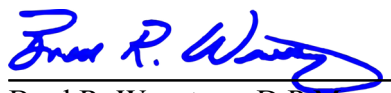
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Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



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James R. Baird  
Member of Congress



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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



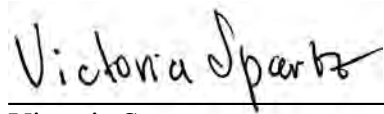
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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
Member of Congress



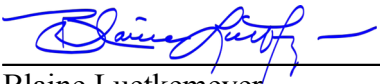
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Victoria Spartz  
Member of Congress



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Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Stephanie Bice  
Member of Congress



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Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



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Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



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Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



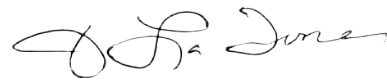
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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



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Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



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Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



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John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



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Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



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Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress



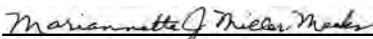
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Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress



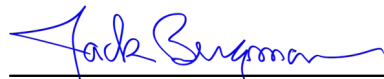
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Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



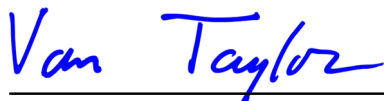
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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



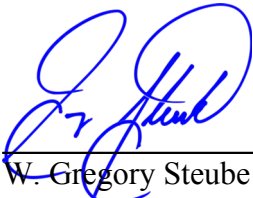
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Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Van Taylor  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



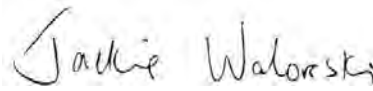
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Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



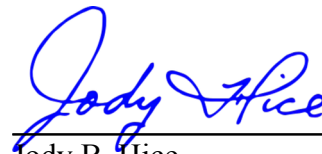
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Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



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Jody B. Hice  
Member of Congress



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C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



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Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



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Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



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Charles J. "Chuck"  
Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



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Greg Pence  
Member of Congress



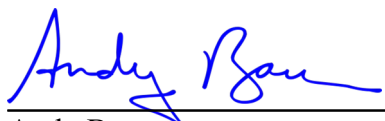
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David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



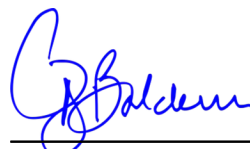
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Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



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Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



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Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



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Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



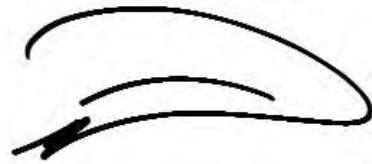
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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress



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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



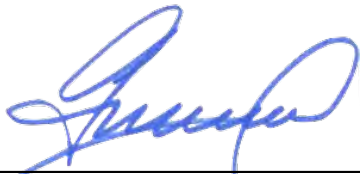
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Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



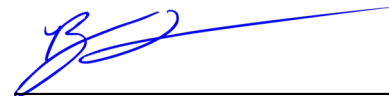
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Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



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Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress




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Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress




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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



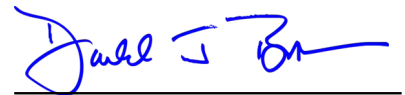
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Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress




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Ken Buck  
Member of Congress




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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress




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Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



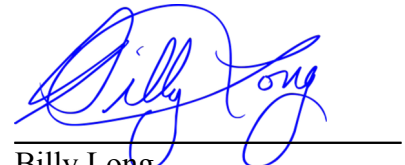
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Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress




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Billy Long  
Member of Congress



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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



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Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



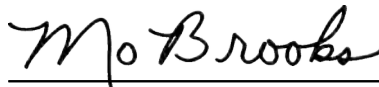
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Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



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Alexander X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



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Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



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Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



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Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



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Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



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Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress





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Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



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Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



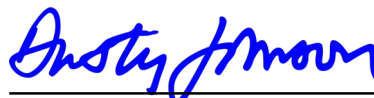
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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



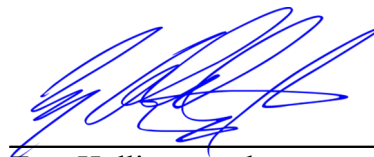
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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



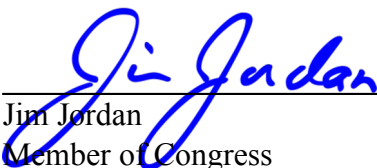
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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



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Trey Hollingsworth  
Member of Congress



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Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



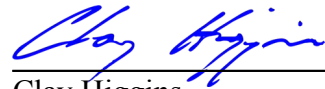
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Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



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Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress




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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



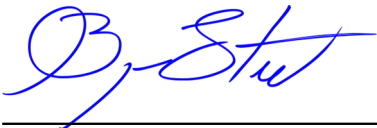
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John W. Rose  
Member of Congress



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Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress




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Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



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A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



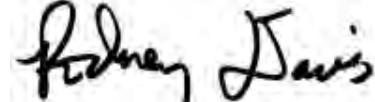
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Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



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Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



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Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



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Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress



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Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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French Hill  
Member of Congress



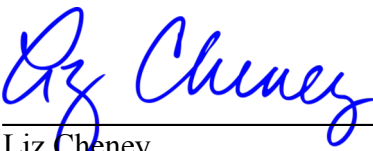
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John Katko  
Member of Congress



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Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



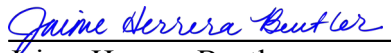
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Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress




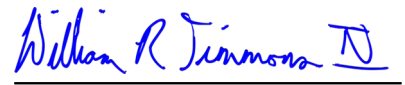
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Kay Granger  
Member of Congress


  
Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress


  
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

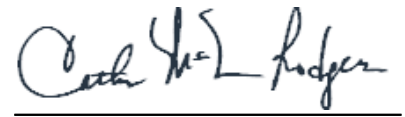
  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress


  
William R. Timmons IV  
Member of Congress


  
Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress, FL-11

  
Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

  
John R. Carter  
Member of Congress

  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



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Peter Meijer M.C.  
Member of Congress




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Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Meuser  
Member of Congress



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Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



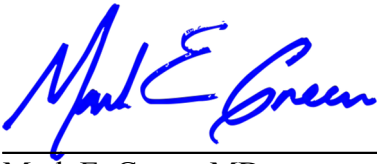
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James Comer  
Member of Congress



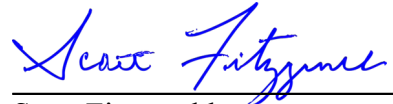
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Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Green, MD  
Member of Congress



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Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress



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Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



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John Joyce  
Member of Congress



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Ronny Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



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Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress