

BARBARA LEE

13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Member, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

Member, Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

July 02, 2014

REPLY TO OFFICE CHECKED

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We join you and with those in the international community who are expressing grave concern over the rise in sectarian violence in Iraq over the last days and weeks. The consequences of this development are particularly troubling given the extraordinary loss of American lives and expenditure of funds over ten years that was claimed to be necessary to bring democracy, stability and a respect for human rights to Iraq.

We support your restraint to date in resisting the calls for a “quick” and “easy” military intervention, and for your commitment not to send combat troops back to Iraq. We also appreciate your acknowledgement that this conflict requires a political solution, and that military action alone cannot successfully lead to a resolution.

We do not believe intervention could be either quick or easy. And, we doubt it would be effective in meeting either humanitarian or strategic goals, and that it could very well be counter-productive. This is a moment for urgent consultations and engagement with all parties in the region who could bring about a cease fire and launch a dialogue that could lead to a reconciliation of the conflict.

Any solution to this complex crisis can only be achieved through a political settlement, and only if the process and outcome is inclusive of all segments of the Iraqi population—anything short of that cannot successfully bring stability to Iraq or the region.

As you consider options for U.S. intervention, we write to urge respect for the constitutional requirements for using force abroad. The Constitution vests in Congress the power and responsibility to authorize offensive military action abroad. The use of military force in Iraq is something the Congress should fully debate and authorize. Members of Congress must consider all the facts and alternatives before we can determine whether military action would contribute to ending this most recent violence, create a climate for political stability, and protect civilians from greater harm.

We stand ready to work with you to this end.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Scott E. Rigell
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



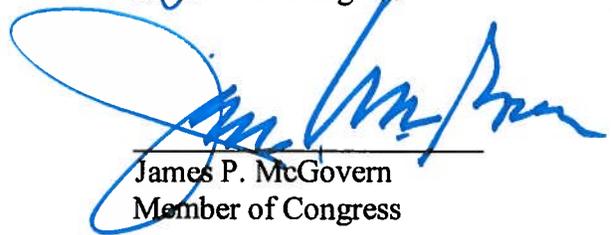
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



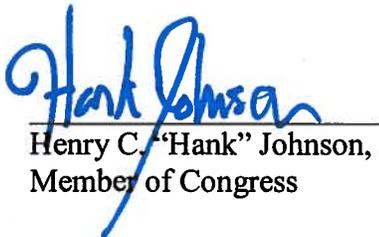
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



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



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

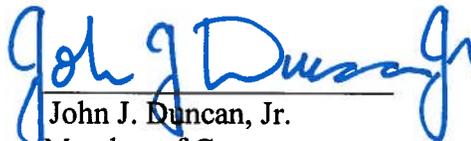

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress


Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

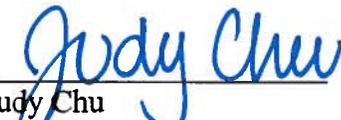

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

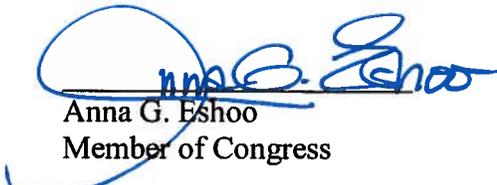

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

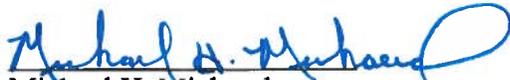

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress


James A. Himes
Member of Congress


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

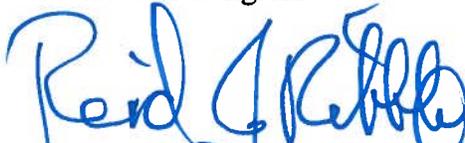

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

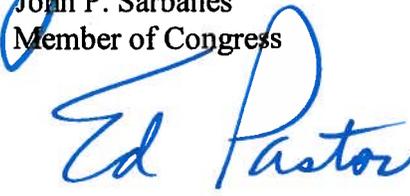

Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Ed Pastor
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



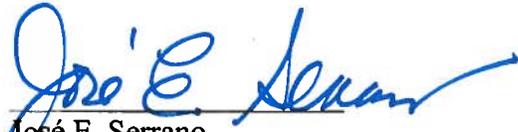
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



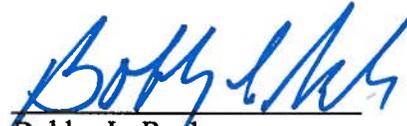
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



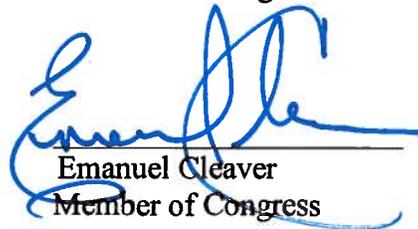
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
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André Carson
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



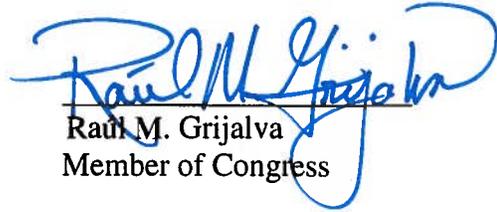
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



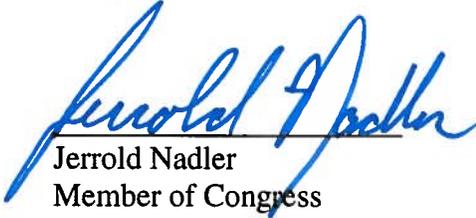
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



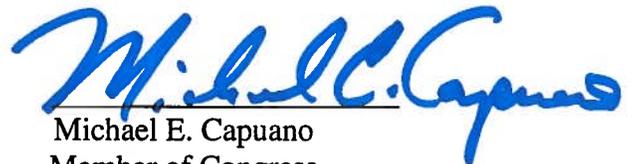
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



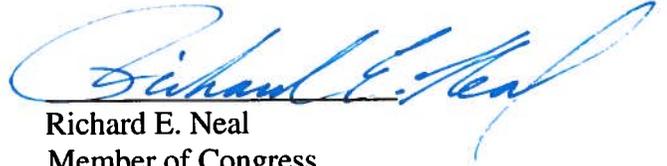
Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



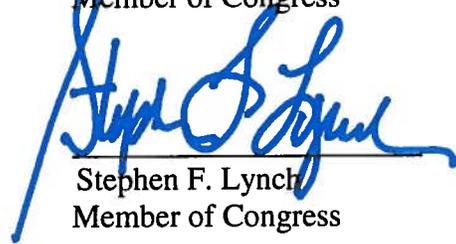
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



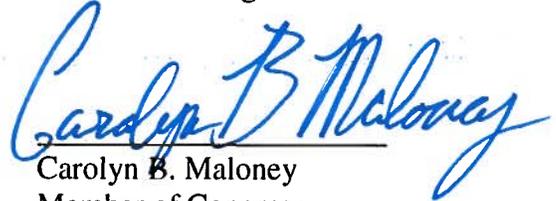
Paul Broun
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



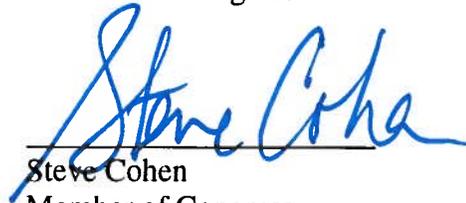
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



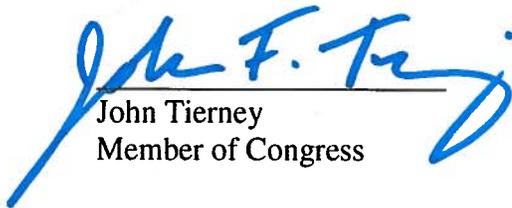
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



Howard Coble
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



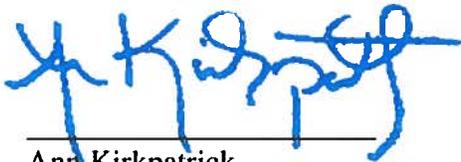
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



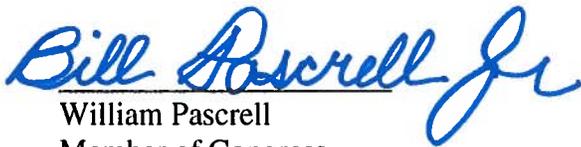
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



William Pascrell
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



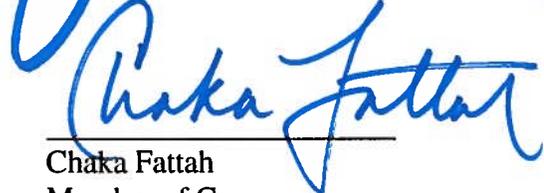
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress