

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2010

The Honorable James Moran
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Simpson:

We write asking that you support economic development, job creation and our national heritage by appropriating funding for the nation's core historic preservation programs in the amounts of \$55 million for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), \$12 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), \$25 million for Save America's Treasures (SAT), and \$4.6 million for Preserve America (PA) in FY11. Recognizing the difficult fiscal constraints of the federal budget, we have reduced our FY11 request as compared to FY10.

SAT, the nation's only bricks-and-mortar preservation grant program, is proposed for elimination and we urge you to fund it at last year's level of \$25 million. The proposed elimination of SAT would represent a nearly 30 percent reduction in the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) overall, while some other programs in the Department of Interior have seen as much as a 38 percent increase. We urge you to help deliver greater equity between our cultural historic preservation programs and our natural resource programs, as they are both integral parts of preserving our nation's rich heritage.

Over the past ten years, SAT has been a driver of economic development and the federal government's most successful tool to preserve the important places that tell our nation's story. Due to broad, bipartisan Congressional support, the program has provided nearly \$300 million to save 1,132 of America's most significant places in all 50 states, creating over 16,000 jobs and fostering economic development in every single project it covers. We support a rigorous evaluation of federal programs to ensure taxpayer money is spent wisely. SAT's decade-long track record exhibits the efficient use of these funds.

SAT stands out as a model of effective spending because every SAT grant recipient is required to raise a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match. It has leveraged more than \$350 million in non-federal and private funds. As a result, SAT has been enormously successful in attracting private-sector financing and creating productive and sustained partnerships with corporations, foundations, and individuals that provide matching contributions. Continued federal funding of SAT is even more important due to currently distressed credit markets and high unemployment.

Preserve America, a sister program to SAT for preservation education and outreach, funded out of the National Recreation account, would also be eliminated in the President's FY11 Budget. The Preserve America program complements SAT's bricks-and-mortar grant projects by helping local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets. We urge you to fund it at last year's level of \$4.6 million. A 2009 report to Congress by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation found that Preserve America is addressing many state, local, and regional heritage tourism needs with a relatively small federal investment and like SAT, the competitive grants require a dollar-for-dollar, non-federal match.


Tying our nation's historic preservation activities together are the SHPOs. In addition to laying the groundwork for SAT and PA, SHPOs carry out the Federal historic preservation program that provides citizens the tools needed to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect the places that give meaning to America. Funding for SHPOs leverages investments through local jobs, non-federal contributions and long-term economic development. In 2009, the Rehabilitation Tax Credit, administered by SHPOs, leveraged nearly \$5 billion in private investment and created over 70,000 jobs. SHPOs also review federal projects for their potential impact on historic sites. A recent February 2010 GAO report highlighted that SHPO staff shortages have delayed various American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects. Providing \$55 million for SHPOs would help fund additional staff vital to conducting ARRA reviews while still providing communities with the means necessary to revitalize and preserve their heritage.

THPOs carry out many of the same functions as SHPOs in tribal areas. There will be 100 THPOs in FY10, compared to only 12 in FY96 when the program was first funded. Unfortunately, the amount of HPF funds appropriated is not keeping pace with this expansion. The addition of new THPOs each year keeps the average level of support per THPO suppressed at around \$75,000, barely enough to operate a program. The President's proposed level of \$8 million in FY11 will fall short in supporting the expected increase of THPOs into the program. Therefore we ask that THPOs be funded at \$12 million for FY11.


Funding these essential historic preservation programs would represent a true investment in America's treasured legacy multiplied many times over through public-private economic partnerships and ventures. Most importantly, it would create much needed jobs and ensure the protection of historic resources nationwide that might otherwise be lost forever.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either Ken Reidy at ken.reidy@mail.house.gov or Brett DeWitt at brett.dewitt@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



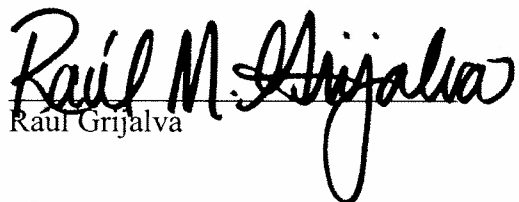
Russ Carnahan



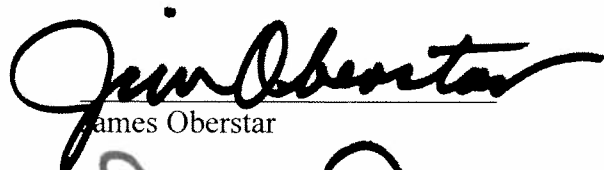
Mike Turner



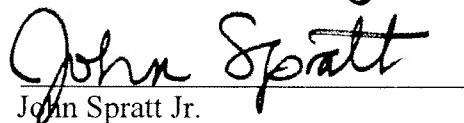
Nick Rahall II



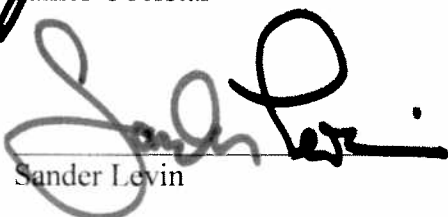
Raul Grijalva



James Oberstar



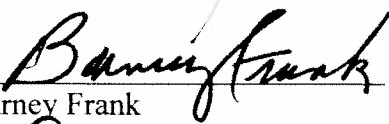
John Spratt Jr.




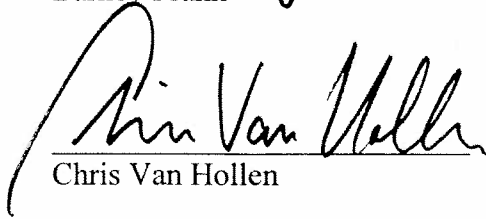
Sander Levin

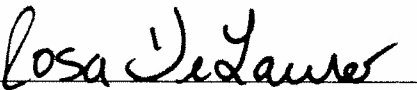


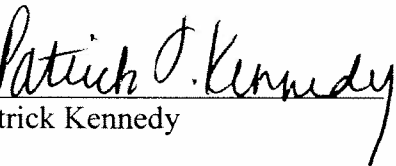
Louise Slaughter



Barney Frank


Spencer Bachus



Chris Van Hollen

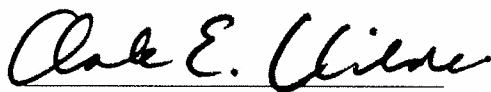

Rosa DeLauro


Patrick Kennedy

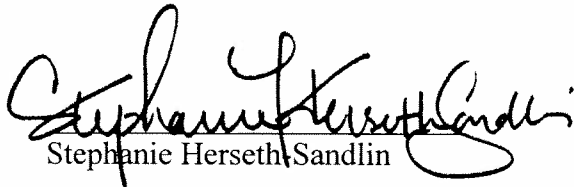

Jesse Jackson Jr.



Brad Miller

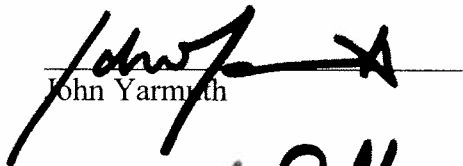

Earl Blumenauer

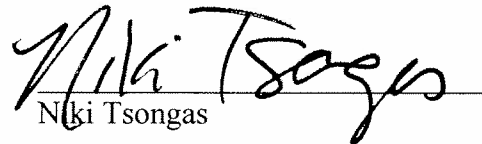

Dale Kildee

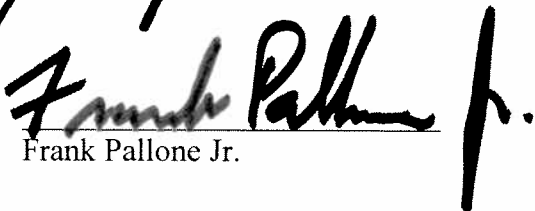

Diana DeGette


Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

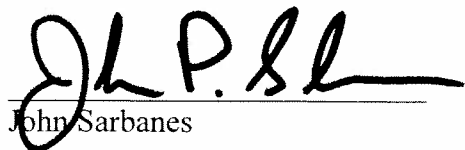

Rush Holt

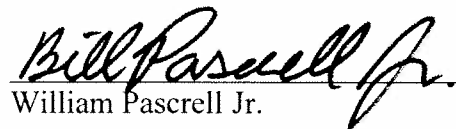

John Yarmuth

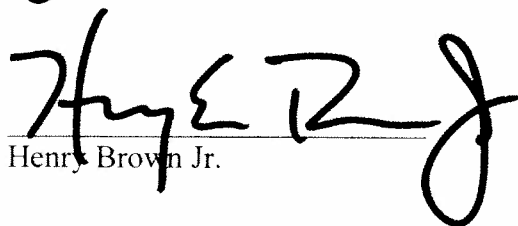

Niki Tsongas

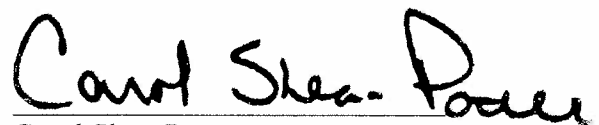

Frank Pallone Jr.

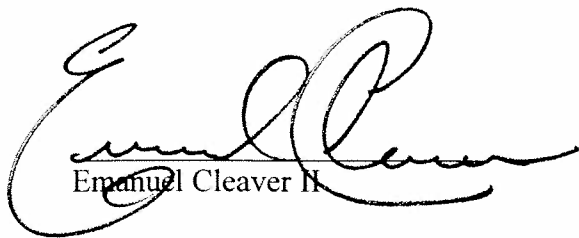

Cynthia Lummis


John Sarbanes


William Pascrell Jr.

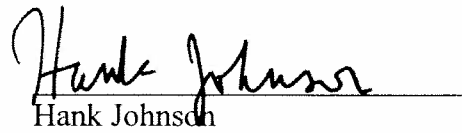

Henry Brown Jr.


Carol Shea-Porter


Emanuel Cleaver II

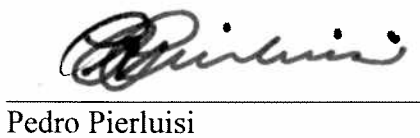

Chellie Pingree

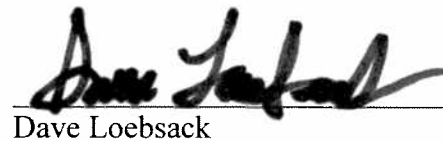

Keith Ellison


Hank Johnson


Bobby Scott



John Hall

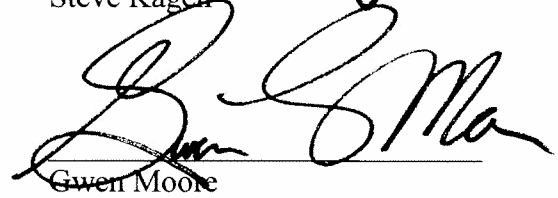

Pedro Pierluisi


Dave Loebsack

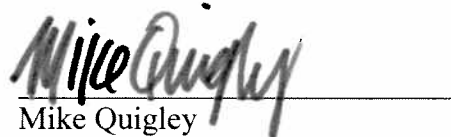

Betsy Markey

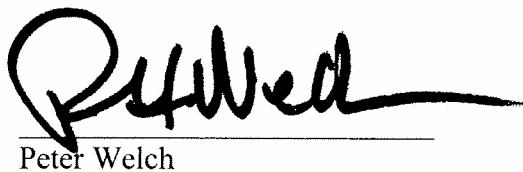

Steve Kagen MD

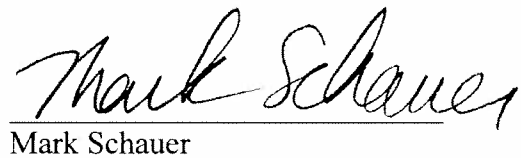

Mary Jo Kilroy

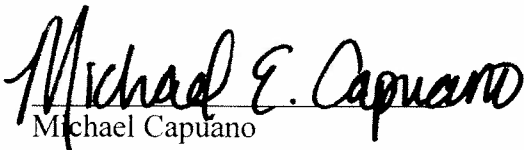

Gwen Moore


Paul Hodes


Mike Quigley


Peter Welch

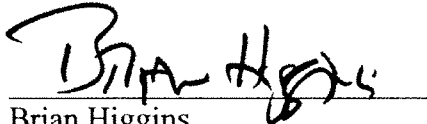

Mark Schauer

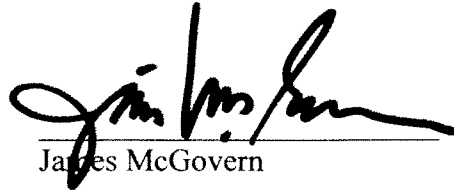

Michael Capuano

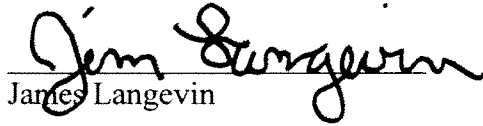

Kurt Schrader

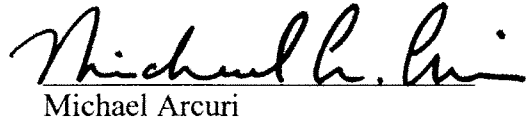

Leonard Boswell

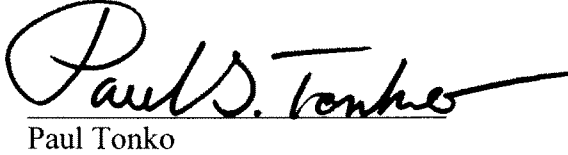

Donna Christensen

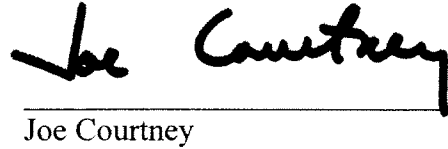

Brian Higgins

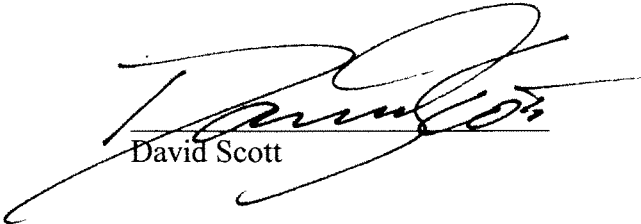

James McGovern

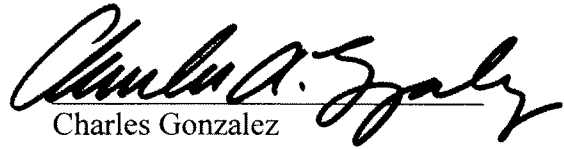

James Langevin

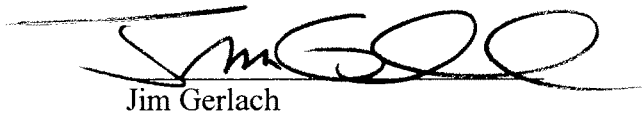

Michael Arcuri


Paul Tonko


Joe Courtney

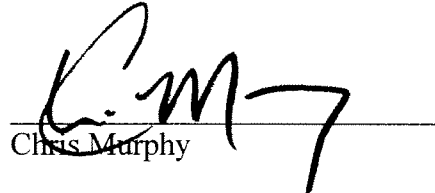

David Scott

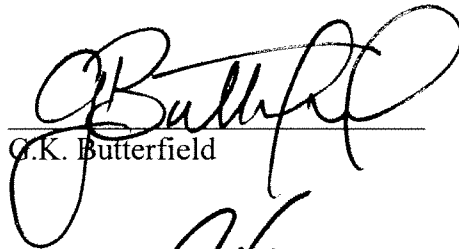

Charles Gonzalez

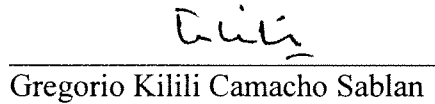

Jim Gerlach

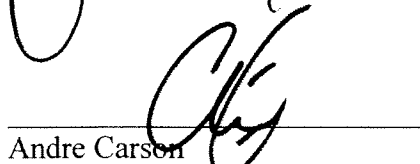

Dina Titus

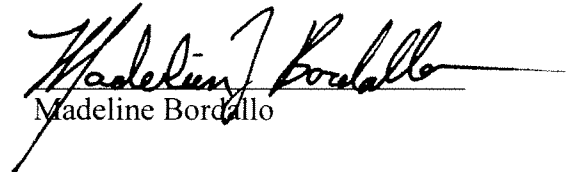

Michael McMahon

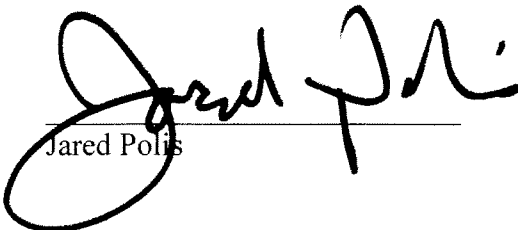

Chris Murphy



G.K. Butterfield

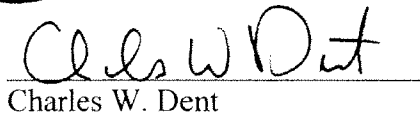

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

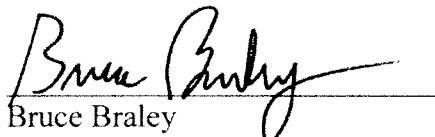

Andre Carson



Madeline Bordallo



Jared Polis

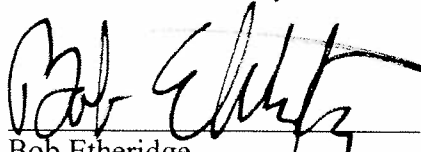

Steve Cohen



Charles W. Dent

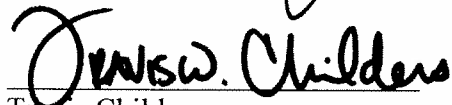

Bruce Braley


Eddie Bernice Johnson

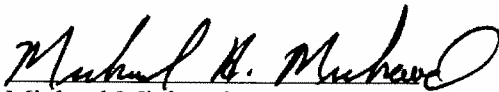

Mazie Hirono

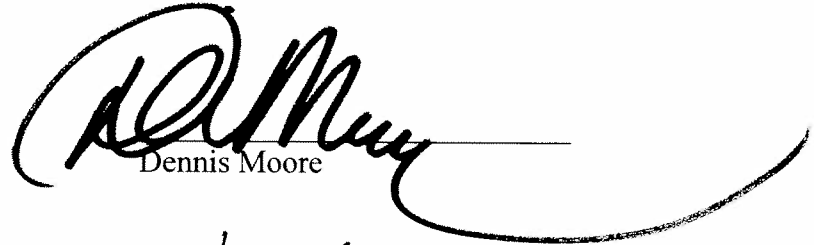

Bob Etheridge

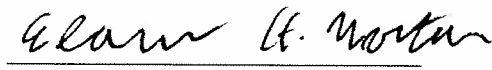

Debbie Halvorson

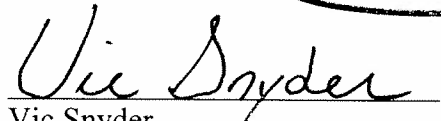

Travis Childers


Betty Sutton

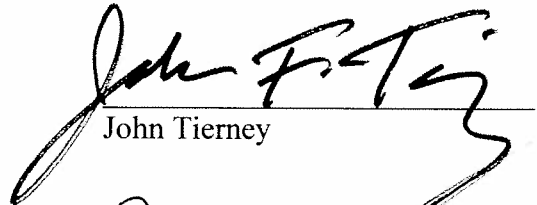

Michael Michaud

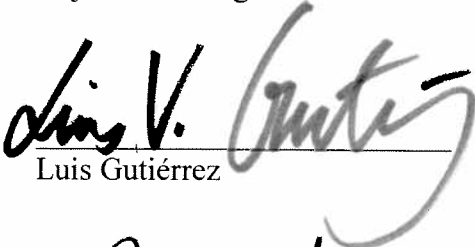

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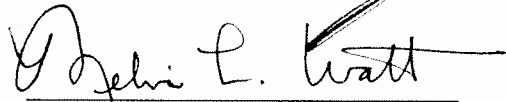

Eleanor Holmes Norton

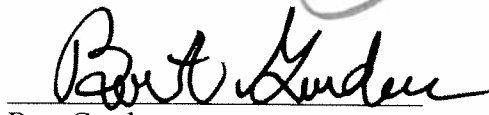

Vic Snyder

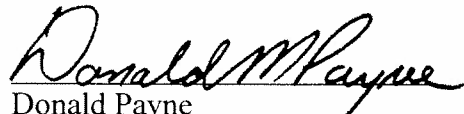

Elijah Cummings

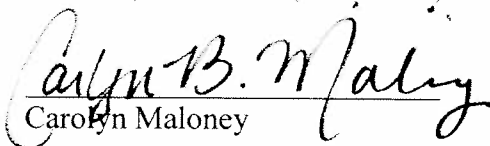

John Tierney

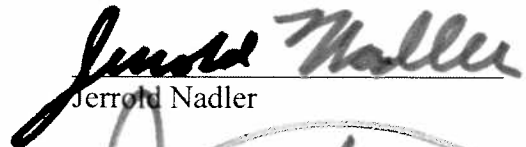

Luis Gutiérrez

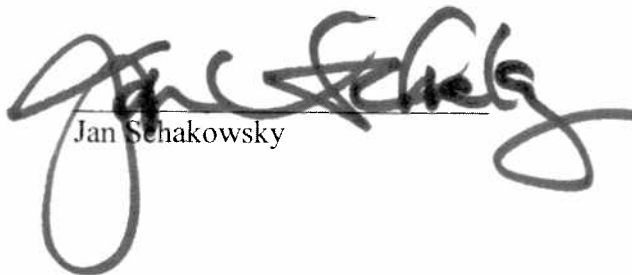

Mel Watt

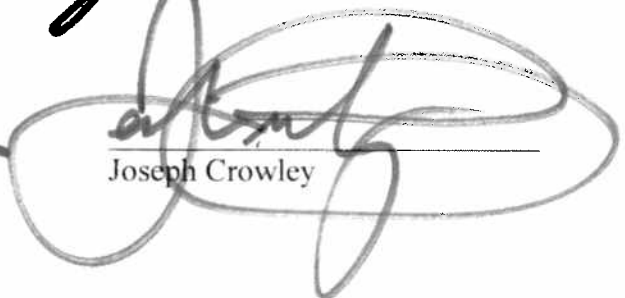

Bart Gordon



Donald Payne


Carolyn Maloney

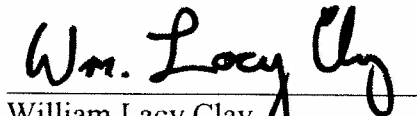

Jerrold Nadler

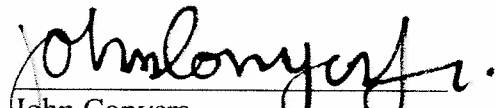

Jan Schakowsky

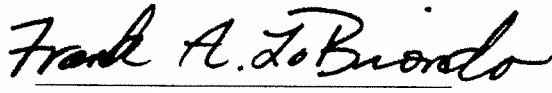

Joseph Crowley



Bobby Rush

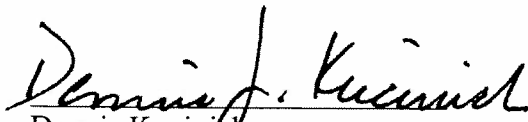

Tim Holden

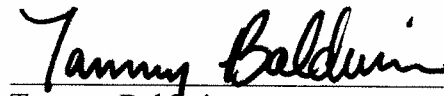

William Lacy Clay


John Conyers

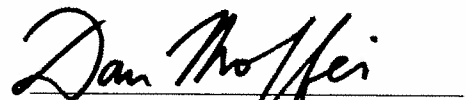

Frank LoBiondo

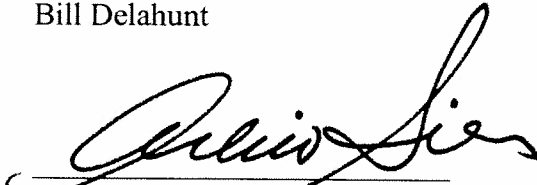

Mike Ross



Dennis Kucinich

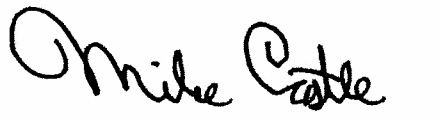

Tammy Baldwin


Bill Delahunt


Dan Maffei


Albio Sires


Bob Filner


Michael Castle