

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and Delauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the NIH receives at least \$34.5 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. This amount, which accounts for inflation, is the minimum level of funding needed to reflect the rising costs associated with biomedical research. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

Over the past decade, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs. Although a modest increase was included in the 2016 end of the year spending package, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first grant. Students are receiving a world-class education at American universities only to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

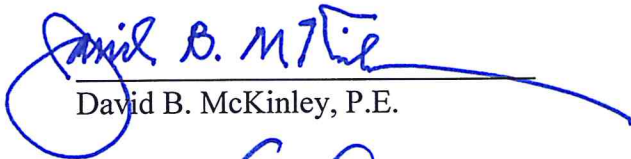
Full funding for NIH is critical if the agency is to continue to serve as the world's preeminent medical research institution and our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the complex causes of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major advancements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and Parkinson's.

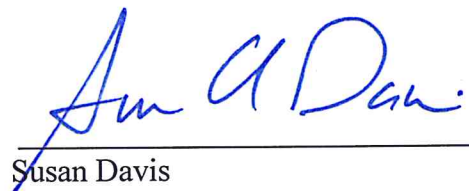
Critical medical research at NIH is on the cutting edge inspiring American researchers and scientists into vital fields. Increased funding for the NIH would allow, for example, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to speed up its development of cell culture-based influenza vaccines. Currently, annual influenza vaccines are developed and manufactured using a 50 year old technology involving chicken eggs. Switching to a cell culture-based process could shave weeks off the current six to nine month production process. In addition, it would allow for the rapid adjustment to changes in the annual flu, as is happening this year, or in the event of an emergency. Cell culture-based vaccines would be available to people with egg allergies that currently are not able to receive annual flu vaccines.

In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in America.

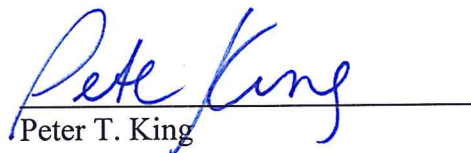
In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$34.5 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2017. Please contact Margie Almanza (Rep. McKinley) at margie.almanza2@mail.house.gov, Erica Powell (Rep. Carson) at erica.powell@mail.house.gov, Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at matt.weiner@mail.house.gov, or Jamie Matese (Rep. King) at jamie.matese@mail.house.gov with any further questions.

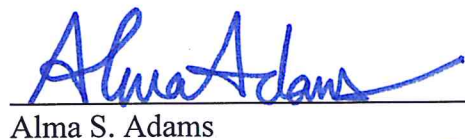
Sincerely,

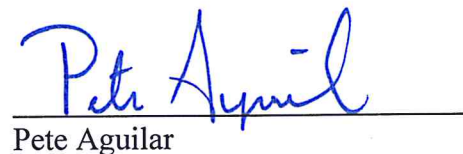

David B. McKinley, P.E.

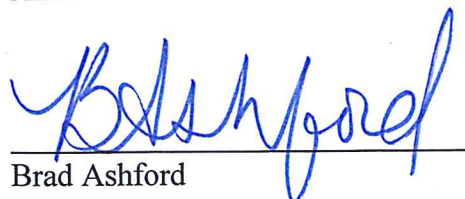

Susan Davis

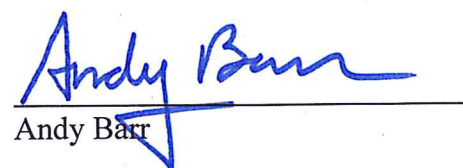

André Carson


Peter T. King


Alma S. Adams


Pete Aguilar


Brad Ashford


Andy Barr

Karen Bass
Karen Bass

Xavier Becerra
Xavier Becerra

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Rod Blum
Rod Blum

Suzanne Bonamici
Suzanne Bonamici

Brendan F. Boyle
Brendan F. Boyle

Susan W. Brooks
Susan W. Brooks

Julia Brownley
Julia Brownley

G.K. Butterfield
G.K. Butterfield

Joyce Beatty
Joyce Beatty

Ami Bera
Ami Bera, M.D.

Gus M. Bilirakis
Gus M. Bilirakis

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer

Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.

Robert Brady
Robert Brady

Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown

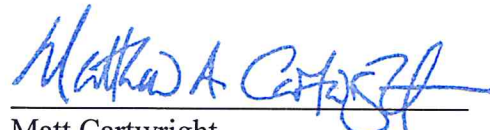
Cheri Bustos
Cheri Bustos

Bradley Byrne
Bradley Byrne


Lois Capps



Michael E. Capuano


Tony Cárdenas

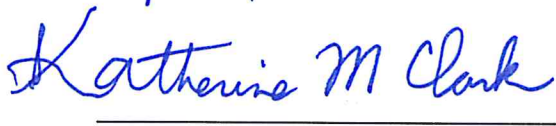

Matt Cartwright

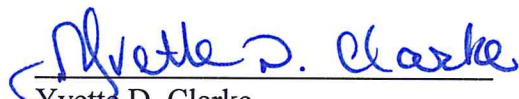

Kathy Castor

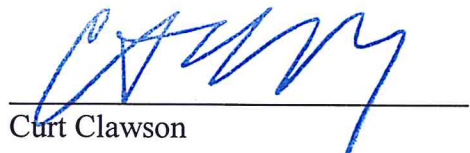

Steve Chabot

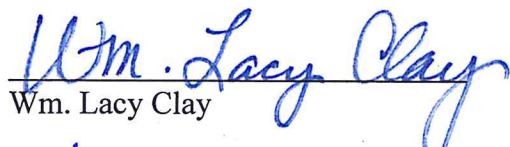

Judy Chu


David N. Cicilline


Katherine M. Clark

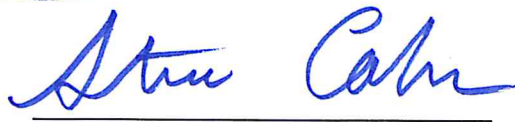

Yvette D. Clarke


Curt Clawson

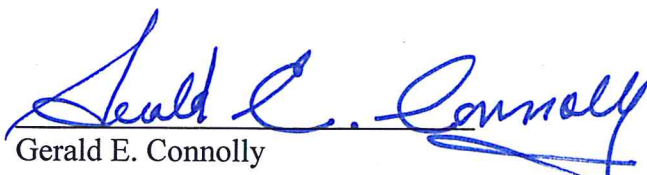

Wm. Lacy Clay


Emanuel Cleaver



Mike Coffman

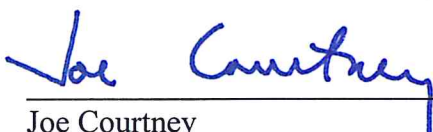

Steve Cohen



Chris Collins

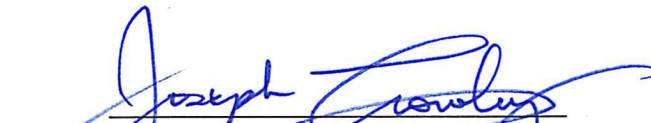

Gerald E. Connolly



John Conyers

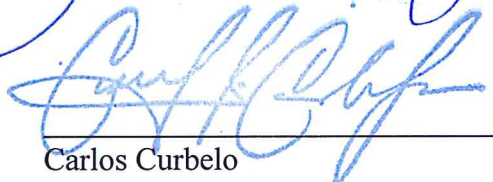

Jim Cooper


Joe Courtney


Kevin Cramer


Joe Crowley


Elijah Cummings

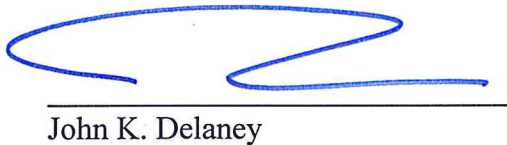

Carlos Curbelo


Danny K. Davis


Rodney Davis


Peter A. DeFazio


Diana DeGette


John K. Delaney


Suzan K. DelBene


Mark DeSaulnier


Theodore E. Deutch

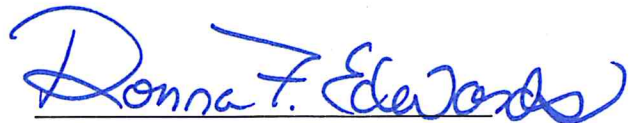

Debbie Dingell


Lloyd Doggett



Robert J. Dold



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

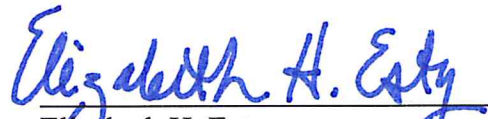

Michael F. Doyle


Donna F. Edwards


Keith Ellison


Eliot L. Engel



Anna G. Eshoo

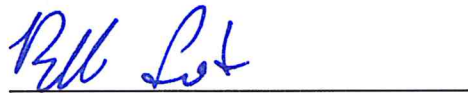

Elizabeth H. Esty


Sam Farr


Chaka Fattah


Michael G. Fitzpatrick



Bill Flores


Bill Foster



Lois Frankel



Marcia L. Fudge


Tulsi Gabbard


Ruben Gallego

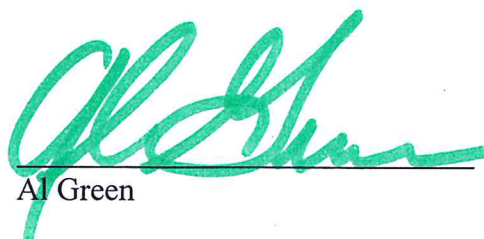

John Garamendi


Chris Gibson


Gwen Graham



Alan Grayson



Al Green



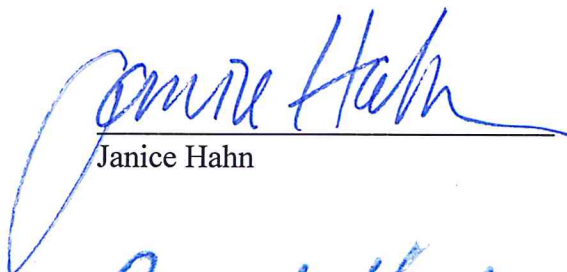
Raúl Grijalva



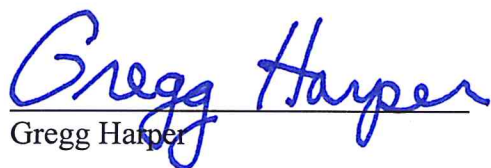
Frank C. Guinta



Luis V. Gutiérrez



Janice Hahn



Gregg Harper



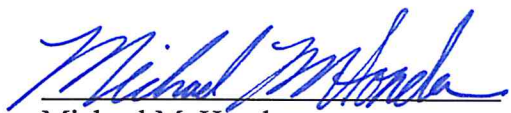
Alcee L. Hastings



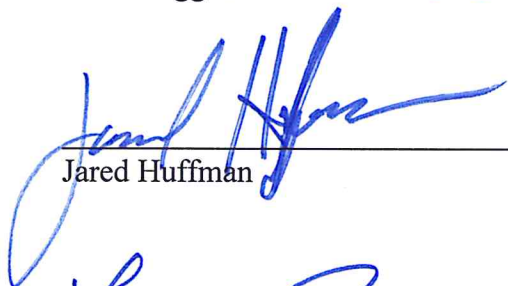
Denny Heck



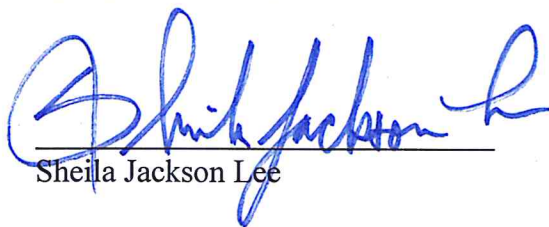
Brian Higgins



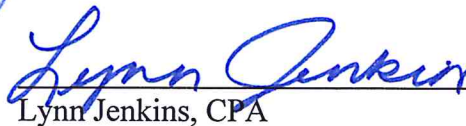
Michael M. Honda



Jared Huffman



Sheila Jackson Lee



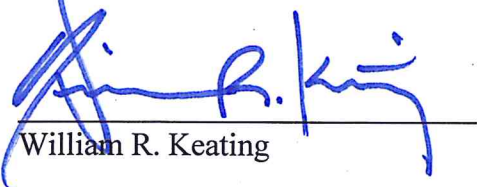
Lynn Jenkins, CPA



Eddie Bernice Johnson



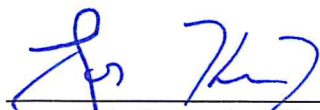
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

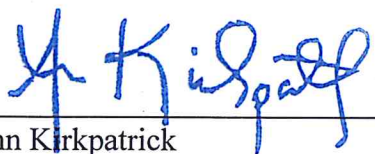


William R. Keating




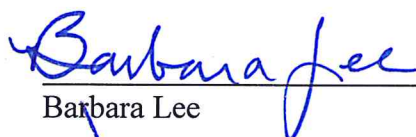
Robin L. Kelly

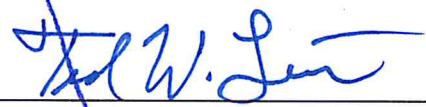

Joseph P. Kennedy, III


Ann Kirkpatrick



Leonard Lance



Rick Larsen


Barbara Lee

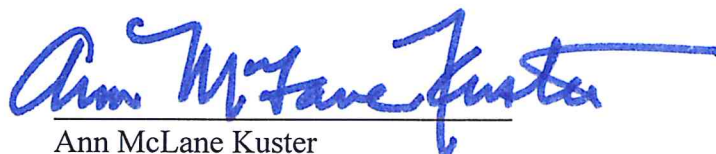

Ted Lieu


Zoe Lofgren

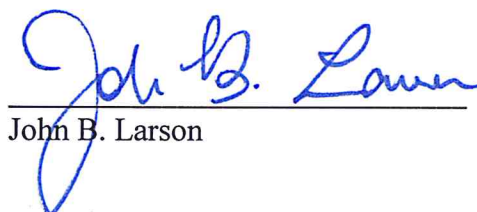

Frank D. Lucas

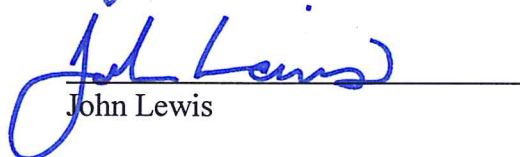

Michelle Lujan Grisham


Ron Kind


Ann McLane Kuster

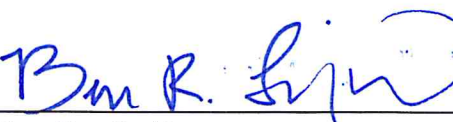

James R. Langevin

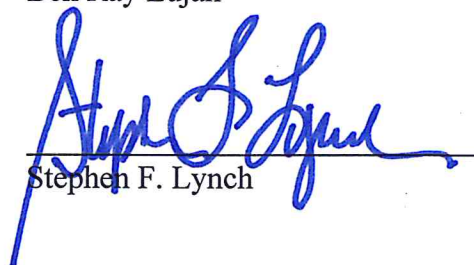

John B. Larson


John Lewis



Daniel W. Lipinski

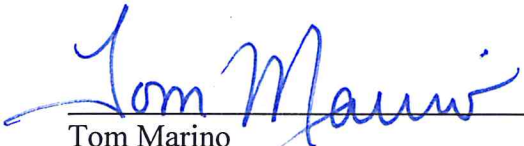

Alan Lowenthal


Ben Ray Luján


Stephen F. Lynch


Carolyn Maloney



Sean Patrick Maloney

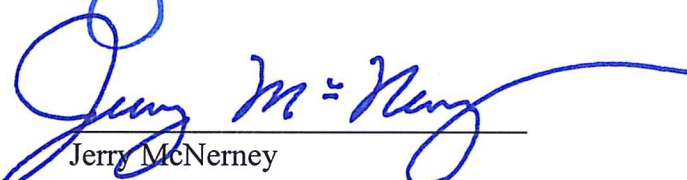

Tom Marino


Doris Matsui


Michael T. McCaul

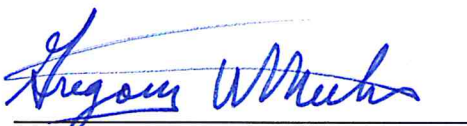

Jim McDermott

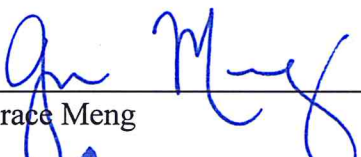

James P. McGovern

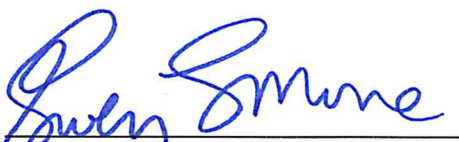

Jerry McNerney


Martha McSally


Patrick Meehan

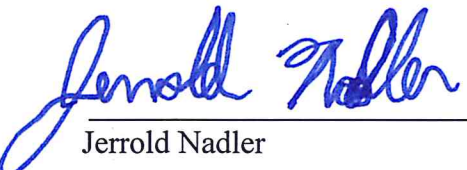

Gregory W. Meeks


Grace Meng


Gwen Moore


Seth Moulton

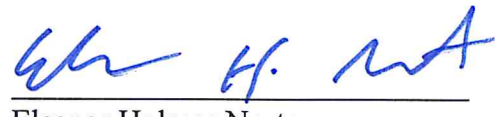

Tim Murphy


Jerrold Nadler


Grace F. Napolitano

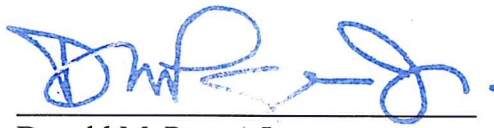

Richard E. Neal


Richard M. Nolan


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Pete Olson

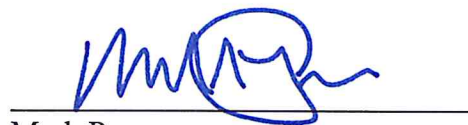

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

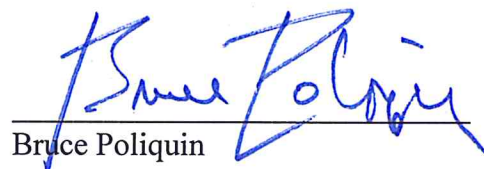

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

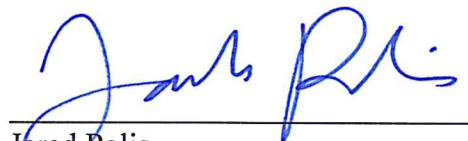

Ed Perlmutter


Scott H. Peters


Chellie Pingree


Mark Pocan



Bruce Poliquin



Jared Polis


David E. Price


Charles B. Rangel

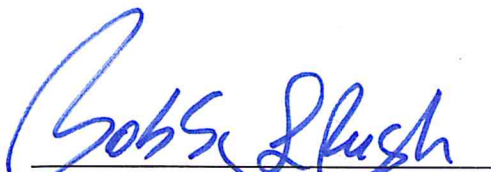

Kathleen M. Rice



Cedric L. Richmond



Dana Rohrabacher


Raul Ruiz


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger


Bobby L. Rush


Matt Salmon



Linda T. Sánchez


Loretta Sanchez



John P. Sarbanes



Jan Schakowsky



Adam B. Schiff


Kurt Schrader

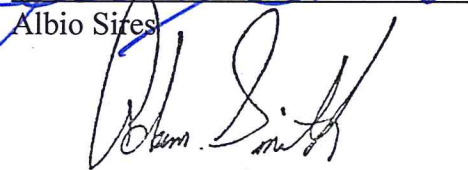

David Scott


Terri A. Sewell


Kyrsten Sinema


Albio Sires

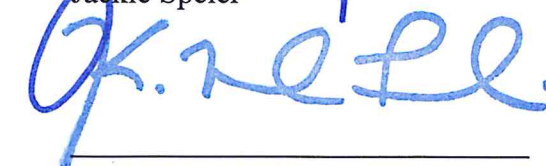

Louise M. Slaughter


Adam Smith


Christopher H. Smith

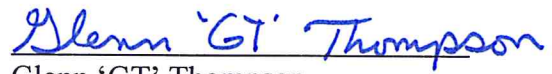

Jackie Speier


Eric Swalwell


Mark Takai



Mark Takano




Glenn 'GT' Thompson



Mike Thompson



Dina Titus



Paul Tonko



Norma J. Torres



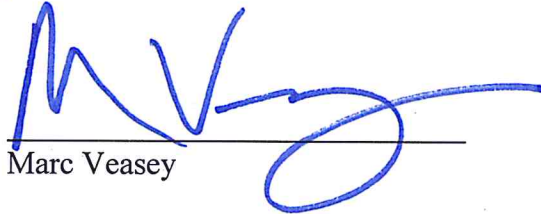
Niki Tsongas



Chris Van Hollen



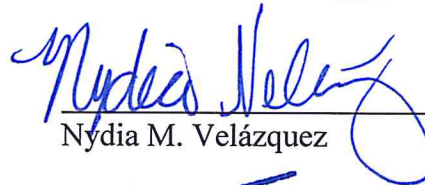
Juan Vargas



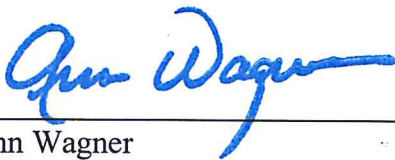
Marc Veasey



Filemon Vela



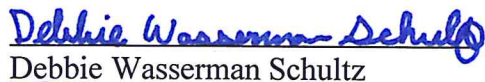
Nydia M. Velázquez



Ann Wagner



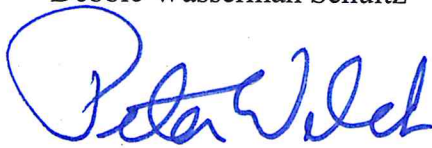
Timothy J. Walz



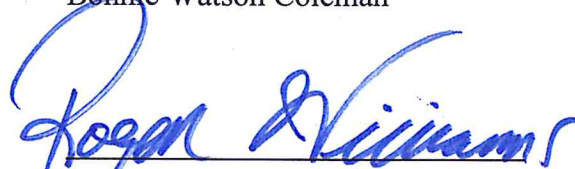
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



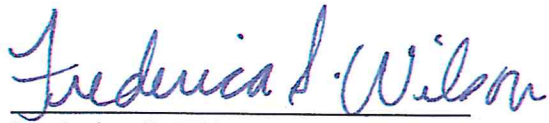
Bonnie Watson Coleman



Peter Welch



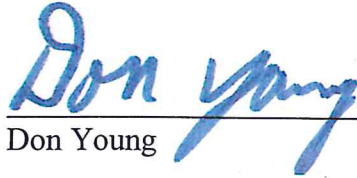
Roger Williams



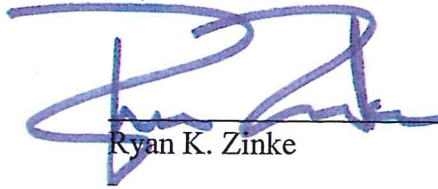
Frederica S. Wilson



John A. Yarnuth



Don Young



Ryan K. Zinke



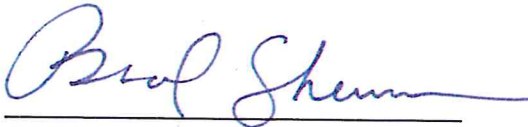
Tammy Duckworth



Hakeem Jeffries



Patrick Murphy



Brad Sherman