

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2010

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As steadfast advocates of the unbreakable U.S. commitment to the security of Israel, we write in support of your strong commitment to a Middle East peace process that results in Israel and a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security.

Distinguished leaders with decades of military service in both the United States and Israel have concluded that the continued lack of resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict threatens the security interests of both countries. General David H. Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command, presented compelling testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in March on the impact that, in his words, “insufficient progress toward a comprehensive Middle East peace” has had on American security interests in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Specifically, General Petraeus stated that “The enduring hostilities between Israel and some of its neighbors present distinct challenges to our ability to advance [U.S.] interests in the [region].... The conflict foments anti-American sentiment...Arab anger over the Palestinian question limits the strength and depth of U.S. partnerships with governments and peoples in the [region] and weakens the legitimacy of moderate regimes in the Arab world. Meanwhile, al-Qaeda and other militant groups exploit that anger to mobilize support. The conflict also gives Iran influence in the Arab world through its clients, Lebanese Hezbollah and Hamas.”

Senior national security leaders in Israel have expressed similar views. Former Prime Minister and current Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Israel's most decorated military leader, has stated that "The lack of a solution to the problem of border demarcation within the historic Land of Israel...is the most serious threat to Israel's future." In the words of Defense Minister Barak, "the reality is that there is a profound need, which stems from Israel's interests to ensure its future and its identity. We have an interest in drawing a border line which includes a solid Jewish majority for generations, and beside it an economically and politically viable Palestinian state. The agreement on this line will come hand in hand with protecting Israel's security interests."

As legislators tasked with safeguarding America's security – and as friends of Israel committed to our ally's survival and prosperity – we share the views of these decorated military leaders and urge you to continue your strong efforts to bring U.S. leadership to bear in moving the parties toward a negotiated two-state solution. A just and sustainable end to this conflict will not only secure Israel's future as a democratic, Jewish homeland – it will also enhance our ability to confront the threats posed by Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other actors in the Middle East, and advance critical U.S. security interests in the region more broadly.

Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



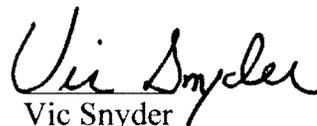
Ron Kind



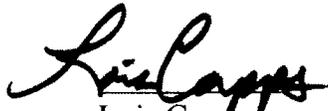
Bill Delahunt



David Price

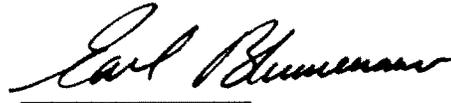


Vic Snyder


Lois Capps

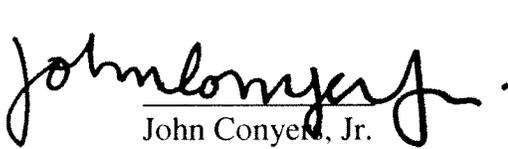

Brian Baird


Tammy Baldwin


Earl Blumenauer

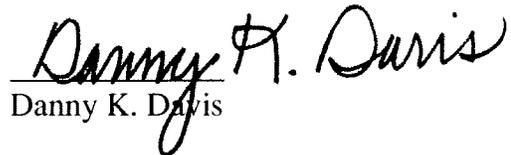

Bruce Braley


Steve Cohen


John Conyers, Jr.

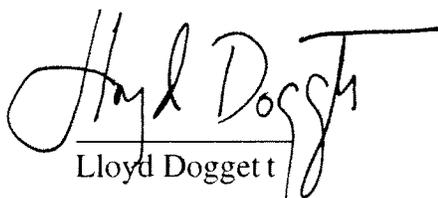

Jerry Costello


Kathy Dahlkemper

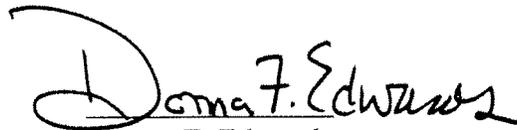

Danny K. Davis


Peter DeFazio


John D. Dingell


Lloyd Doggett

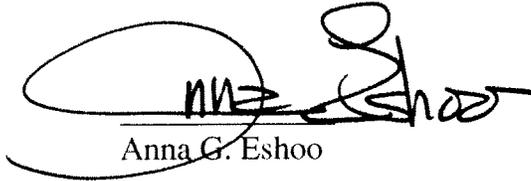

Mike Doyle



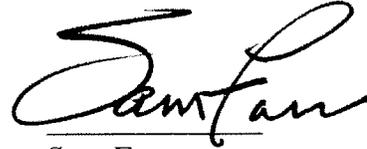
Donna F. Edwards



Keith Ellison



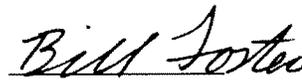
Anna G. Eshoo



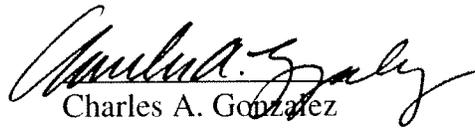
Sam Farr



Bob Filner



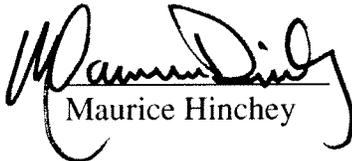
Bill Foster



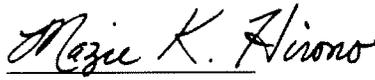
Charles A. Gonzalez



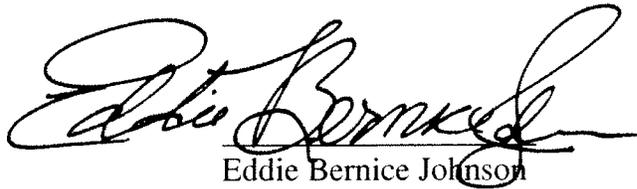
Raúl M. Grijalva



Maurice Hinchey



Mazie K. Hirono



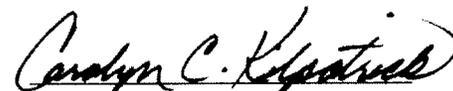
Eddie Bernice Johnson



Steve Kagen



Marcy Kaptur



Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

Mary Jo Kilroy

Mary Jo Kilroy

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee

Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack

Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern

Charlie Melancon

Charlie Melancon

George Miller

George Miller

Jim Moran

Jim Moran

Scott Murphy

Scott Murphy

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

James L. Oberstar

James L. Oberstar

John Olver

John Olver

Bill Owens

Bill Owens

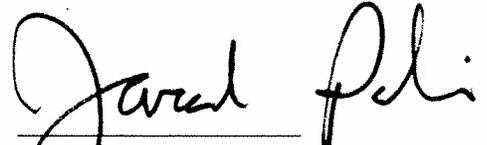
Tom Periello

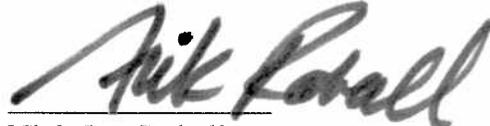
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Donald M. Payne

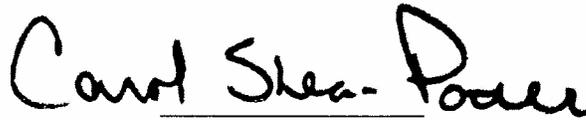
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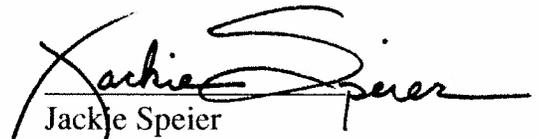

Chellie Pingree


Jared Polis

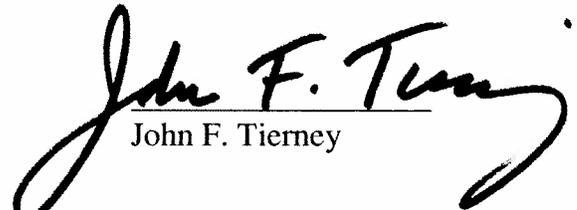

Nick J. Rahall

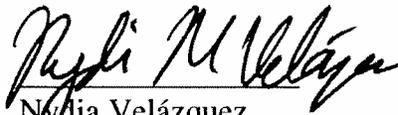

Charles B. Rangel

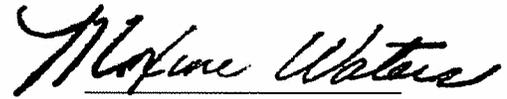

Carol Shea-Porter

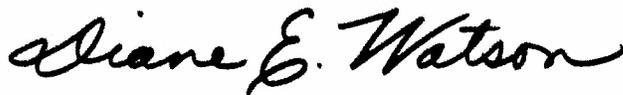

Jackie Speier


Pete Stark

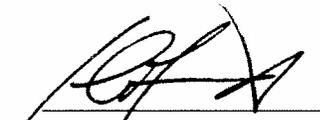

John F. Tierney


Nydia Velázquez


Maxine Waters


Diane Watson


Lynn Woolsey


John Yarmuth