

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2007

Paul Wolfowitz
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20433

Dear President Wolfowitz,

We are writing today to respectfully request that you come to Capitol Hill to meet with us and other concerned Members of Congress to talk about our shared commitment to microfinance assistance for the very poor around the world.

In September and December of 2005, over 40 of our House and 30 of our Senate colleagues sent you two letters urging the World Bank to do more regarding microfinance for the very poor. These letters specifically urged you to ensure that the World Bank 1) increase its investment in microfinance; 2) commit half of those funds to the very poor; 3) require the use of cost-effective poverty measurement tools to measure the poverty level of borrowers and thereby ensure compliance with that goal; and 4) report on the results.

You politely replied on February 9, 2006, and in an attached note agreed with each request. We would like an update on the World Bank's progress on achieving these four recommendations.

Further, we have been unsuccessful in having you come to Capitol Hill to meet with us personally about these priorities. We feel strongly that microfinance is a development tool that has been underutilized by the Bank thus far, and we would greatly appreciate such a face-to-face meeting with you in this regard.

The World Bank committed to the Millennium Development Goals in September of 2000 and we believe strongly that the achievement of these goals, which include cutting absolute poverty in half by 2015, is crucial to building a safer and more equitable world. Given that microfinance is one of the most effective and cost-efficient anti-poverty interventions available today, and the fact that the mission of the World Bank is to fight poverty and improve the living standards of people in the developing world, we would like to see the Bank at least double its investment in microfinance for the very poor. We would like to see the Bank's investment increase from 1 percent to 2 or 3 percent and perhaps more importantly, have credible assurance that at least half of those funds are going to families starting below US \$1 a day.

The signers on this letter represent only a portion of the members of Congress who are interested in participating in an in-person meeting with you regarding microfinance. Given the number of interested parties here in Congress, we hope very much that you will accept our invitation to Capitol Hill so that we may discuss this important issue together.

Sincerely,



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



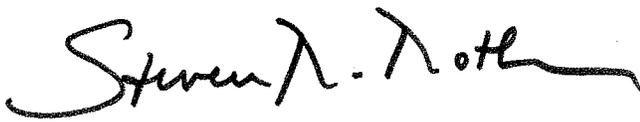
DANA ROHRABACHER
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



THADDEUS G. McCOTTER
Member of Congress



STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress



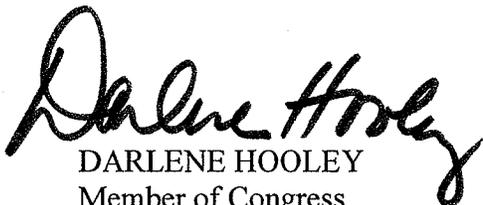
RICK RENZI
Member of Congress



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



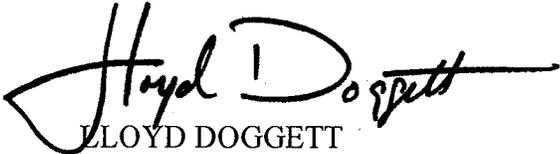
ROBERT E. ANDREWS
Member of Congress



TOM UDALL
Member of Congress



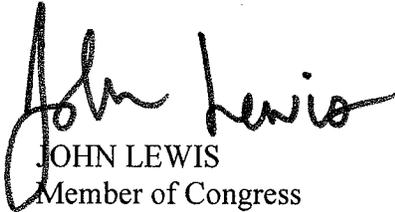
BRIAN BAIRD
Member of Congress



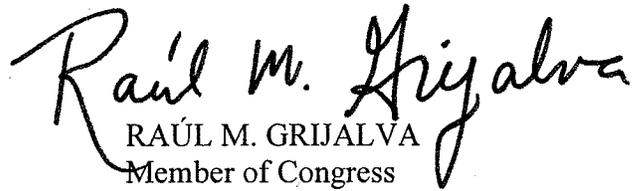
LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



DALE E. KILDEE
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



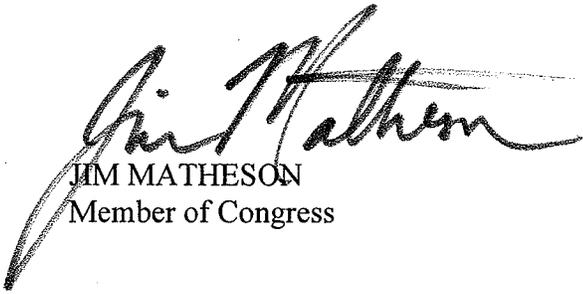
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



ED PASTOR
Member of Congress



CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK
Member of Congress



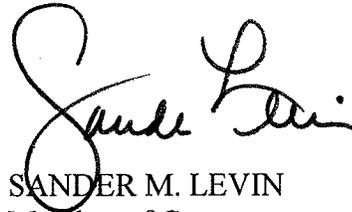
JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress



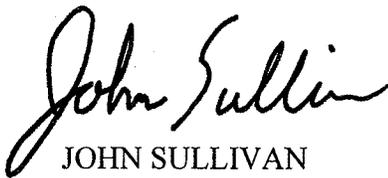
MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Member of Congress



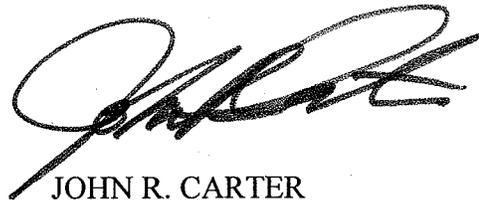
GENE GREEN
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



JOHN SULLIVAN
Member of Congress



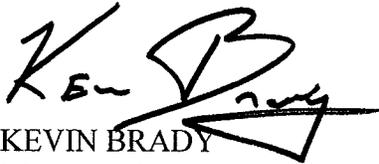
JOHN R. CARTER
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress



GABRIELLE GIFFORDS
Member of Congress



KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
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JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
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DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



GEORGE MILLER
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KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
Member of Congress



MARK UDALL
Member of Congress



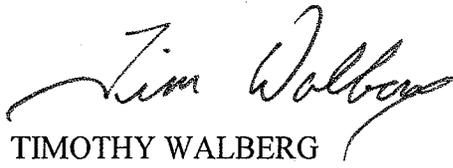
JOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress



JOHN A. YARMUTH
Member of Congress



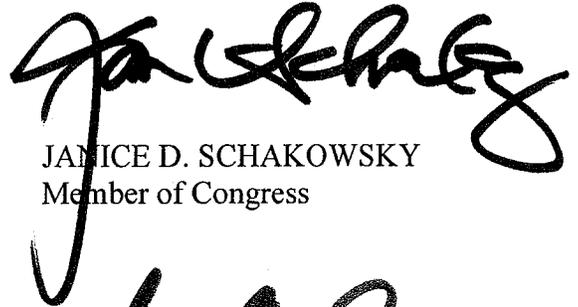
TIMOTHY WALBERG
Member of Congress



NICK LAMPSON
Member of Congress



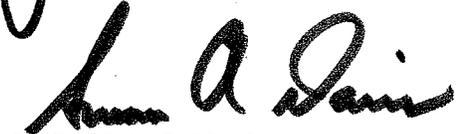
ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



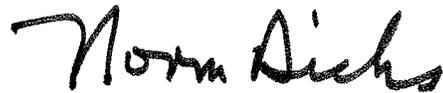
KENDRICK B. MEEK
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SUSAN A. DAVIS
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NORMAN D. DICKS
Member of Congress



HEATH SCHULER
Member of Congress