

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 12, 2007

Robert Zoellick  
President  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20433

Dear President Zoellick,

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.

On February 1, 2007, more than 50 members of Congress wrote to your predecessor requesting a similar meeting. President Wolfowitz, in a letter dated April 18, 2007, replied that he would be pleased to meet with Members of Congress to discuss these important issues. We feel strongly that microfinance is a development tool that has been underutilized by the Bank thus far, especially with regard to reaching and empowering the very poor, and we would greatly appreciate such a face-to-face meeting with you to discuss this further.

We are pleased that the World Bank, through the International Finance Corporation, invested \$132 million in microfinance in Fiscal Year 2006. However, we strongly request that the Bank devote at least half of its entire investment in microcredit to the very poor, people living on less than \$1 a day or who are within the bottom half of those living below their nation's poverty line.

As you may know, in September and December of 2005, over 40 of our House and 30 of our Senate colleagues sent your predecessor two letters urging the World Bank to do more regarding microfinance for the very poor. These letters specifically urged the World Bank to 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.

We would again like an update on the World Bank's progress on achieving these four recommendations.

In September of 2000, the World Bank committed to the Millennium Development Goals. 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.

Just last year, Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh were awarded the Nobel Peace prize "for their efforts to create economic and social development from

below." The Nobel Committee went on to say that "lasting peace can not be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty. Micro-credit is one such means."

Earlier this year, Professor Yunus said, "given that the World Bank's mission is to alleviate poverty, the Bank should provide increased funds for microfinance and make sure that more than half of those funds go to families living below \$1 a day. If the Bank doesn't do it, who else will? It's the right thing to do."

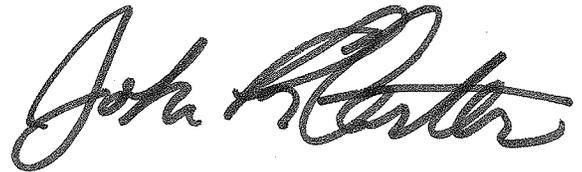
We agree and would like to see the Bank at least double its investment in microfinance for the very poor and more importantly, have credible assurance that at least half of those funds are going to families starting below US \$1 a day.

The signatories to 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,



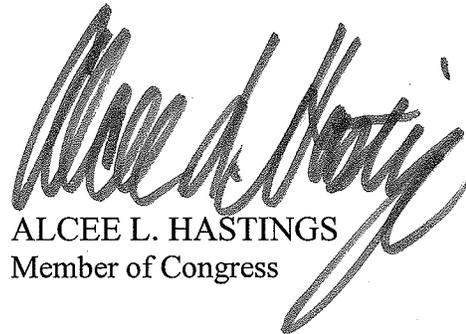
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JOHN D. DINGELL  
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



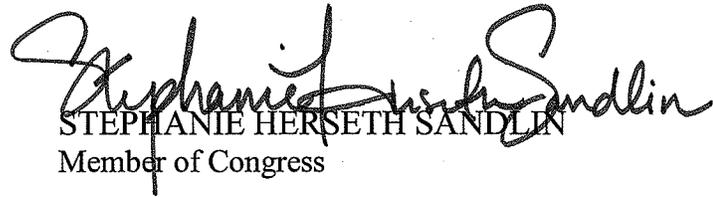
JIM MATHESON  
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CORRINE BROWN  
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KEITH ELLISON  
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STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN  
Member of Congress



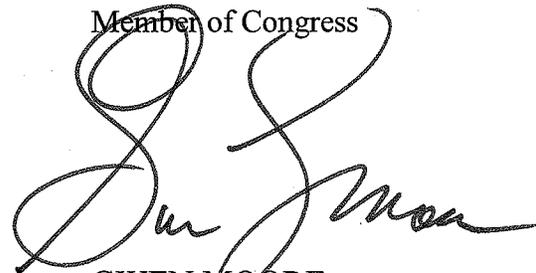
BARBARA LEE  
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KEVIN BRADY  
Member of Congress



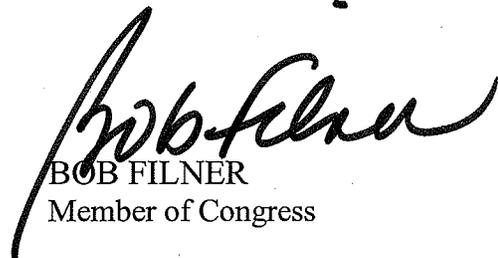
BARON P. HILL  
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GWEN MOORE  
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CHARLES A. GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress



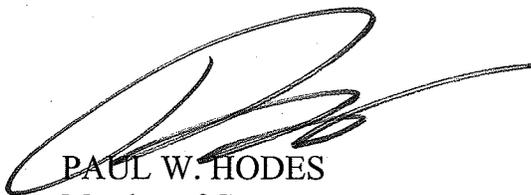
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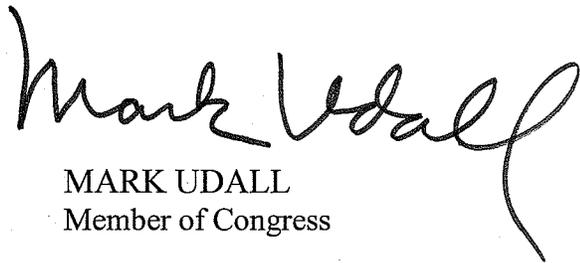
JIM McDERMOTT  
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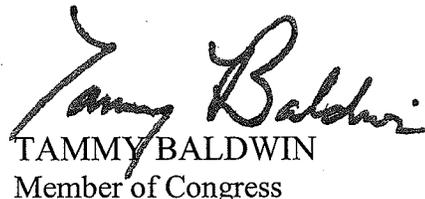
CHARLES A. WILSON  
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MARK UDALL  
Member of Congress



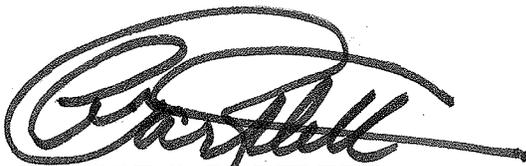
TAMMY BALDWIN  
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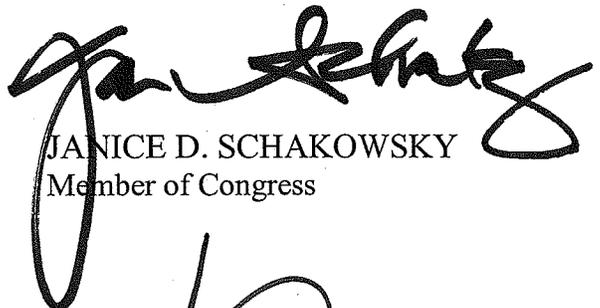
CHAKA FATTAH  
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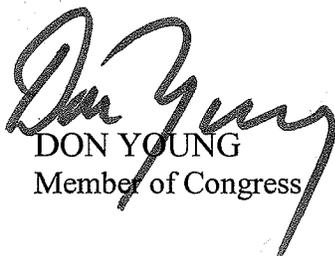
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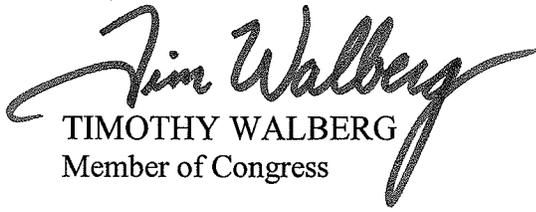
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DON YOUNG  
Member of Congress



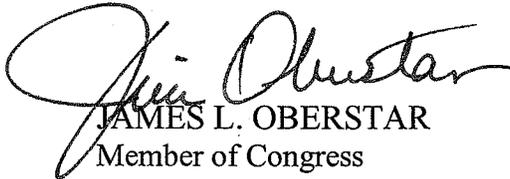
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Member of Congress



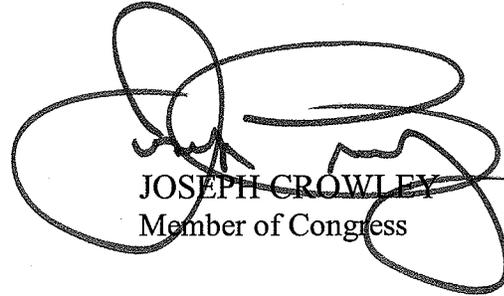
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Member of Congress



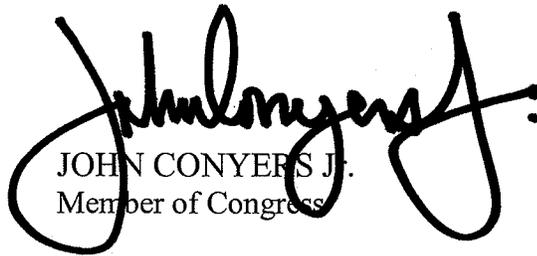
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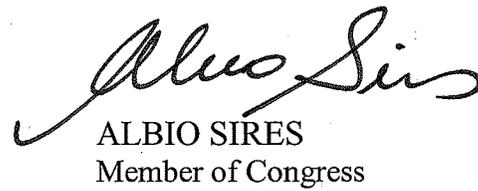
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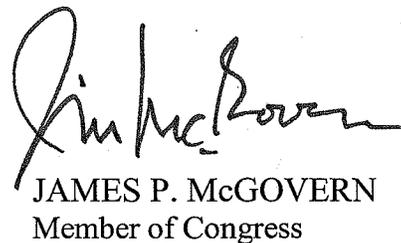
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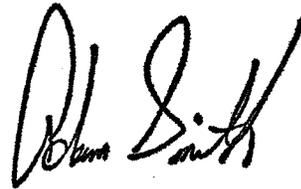
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JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
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ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress



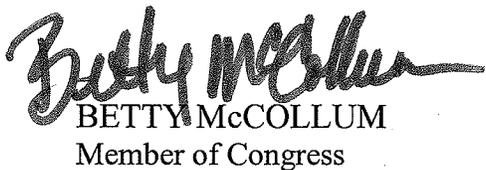
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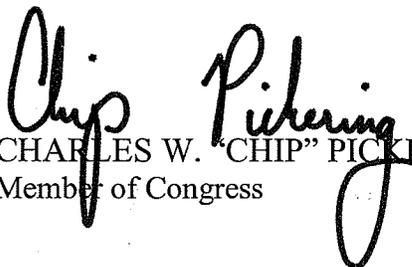
LYNN C. WOOLSEY  
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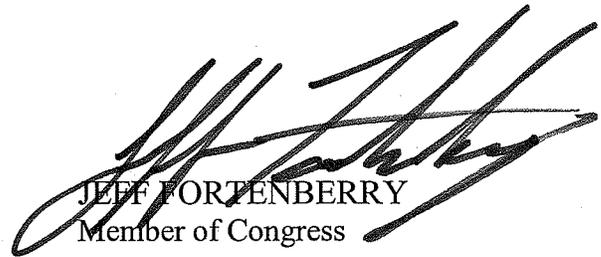
BETTY McCOLLUM  
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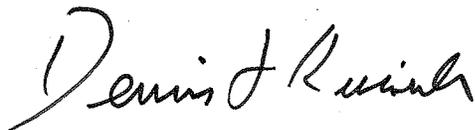
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JEFF FORTENBERRY  
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ROB BISHOP  
Member of Congress



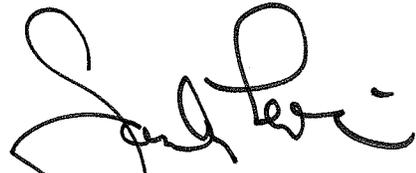
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SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress



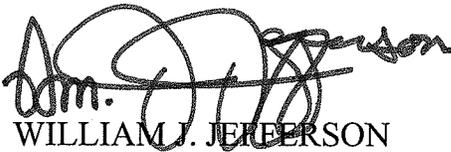
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DANA ROHRBACHER  
Member of Congress



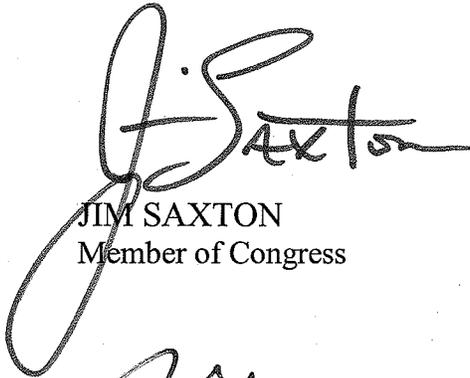
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