

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to thank you for your previous support for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for OMS in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services is currently authorized to receive \$38.6 million annually.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's more than 17,500 museums, which employ over 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding multiplies this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to the economic benefits of this funding, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school resources are strained and many families are struggling to make ends meet, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours to schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to hosting supervised visits for the family court system, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

In 2010, the Institute of Museum and Library Services was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state. The reauthorization contained several provisions to further support museums, particularly at the state

level, but many of the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY15 to support the important work museums are doing in our communities. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.


Sincerely,



Paul Tonko



Leonard Lance



Louise M. Slaughter



Michael Grimm



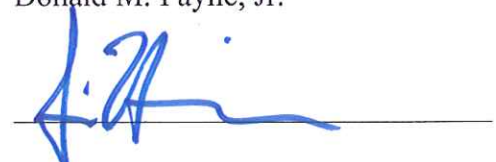
Robert Brady



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



James R. Langevin



Jim Himes



David N. Cicilline




Ann McLane Kuster

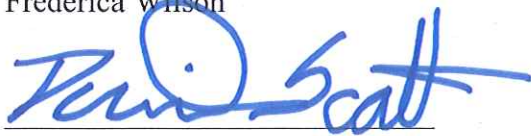


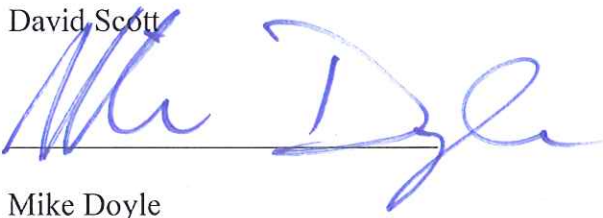
Lloyd Doggett




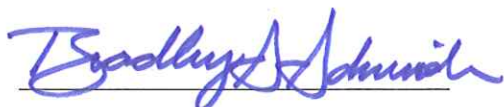
Kathy Castor

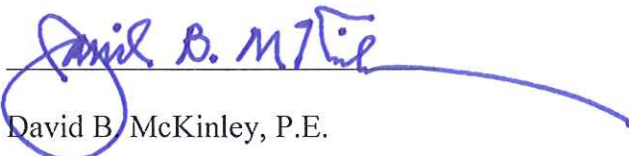

Frederica Wilson


David Scott

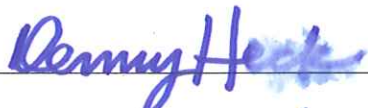

Mike Doyle

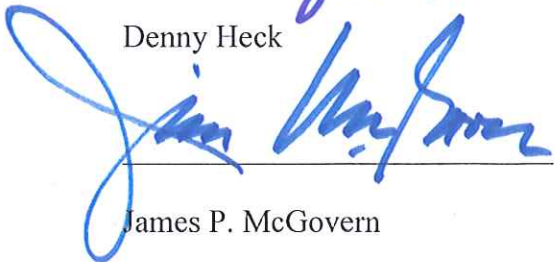

Mark Pocan


Brad Schneider

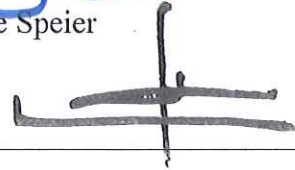

David B. McKinley, P.E.

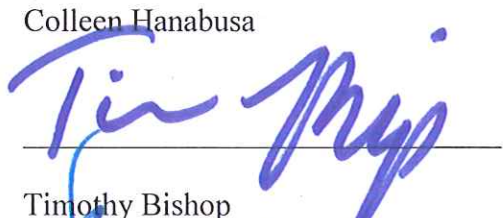

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

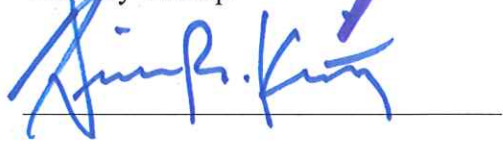

Denny Heck


James P. McGovern


Jackie Speier

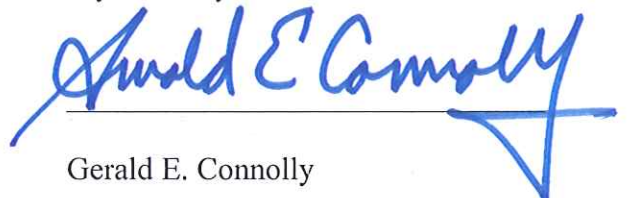

Colleen Hanabusa


Timothy Bishop



William R. Keating


John Yarmuth


Joyce Beatty

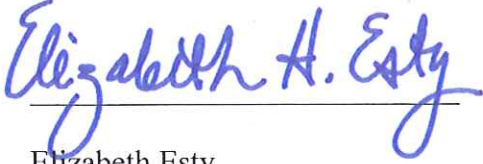

Gerald E. Connolly


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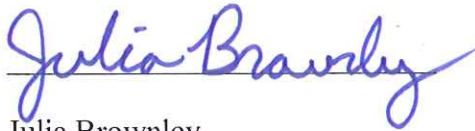

Suzanne Bonamici



Eric Swalwell



Elizabeth Esty



Julia Brownley



Tim Walz



Earl Blumenauer



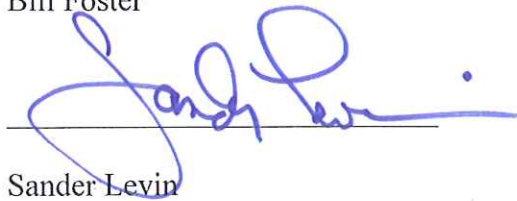
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



Pedro R. Pierluisi



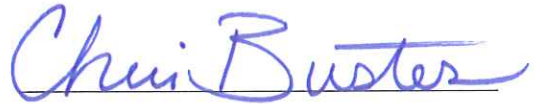
Bill Foster



Sander Levin



Tulsi Gabbard



Cheri Bustos



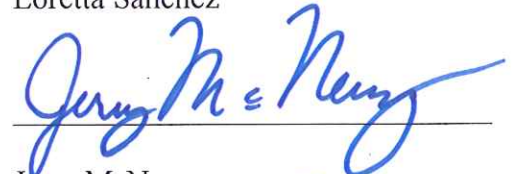
Theodore E. Deutch



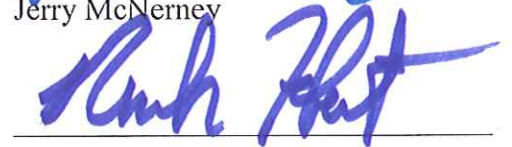
Jim McDermott



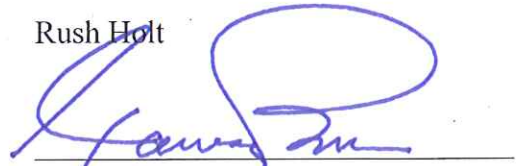
Loretta Sanchez



Jerry McNerney



Rush Holt



Xavier Becerra



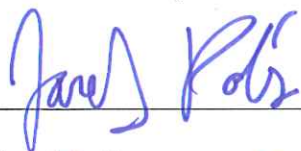
Chellie Pingree



Zoe Lofgren



Michael E. Capuano



Jared Polis



Donna M. Christensen



Judy Chu

Sean Patrick Maloney



Niki Tsongas



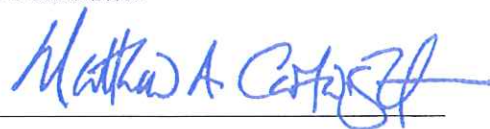
John Delaney



Betty McCollum



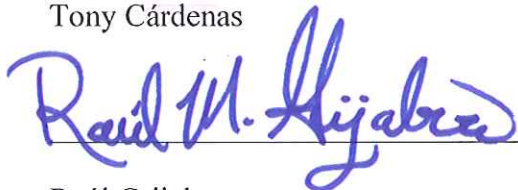
Ed Perlmutter



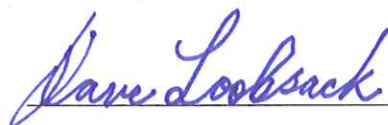
Matt Cartwright



Tony Cárdenas



Raúl Grijalva



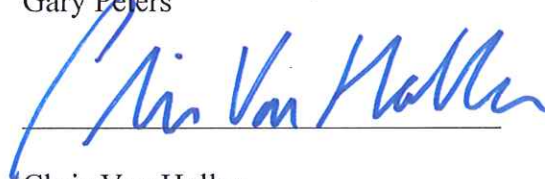
Dave Loebsack



Carol Shea-Porter



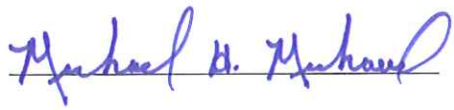
Gary Peters



Chris Van Hollen



Daniel W. Lipinski



Mike Michaud



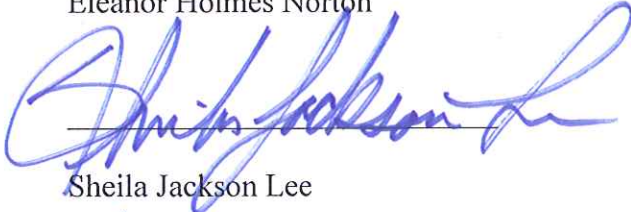
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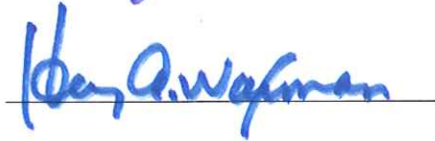
Stephen F. Lynch



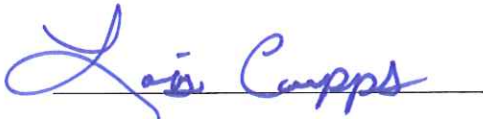
Eleanor Holmes Norton



Sheila Jackson Lee



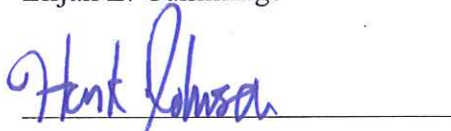
Henry A. Waxman



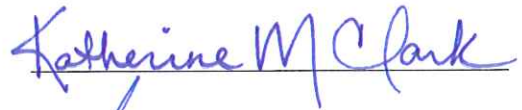
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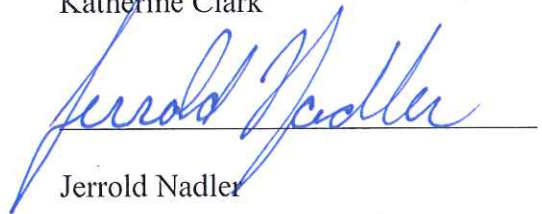
Elijah E. Cummings



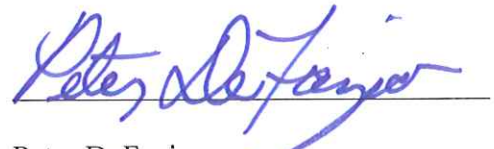
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



Katherine Clark



Jerrold Nadler



Peter DeFazio



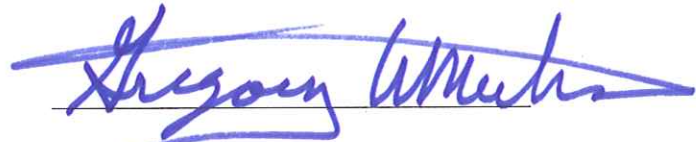
Danny K. Davis



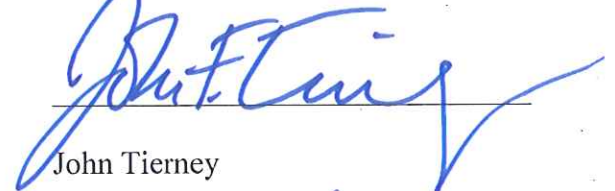
Eliot L. Engel



Richard E. Neal



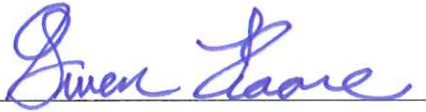
Gregory W. Meeks



John Tierney



Keith Ellison



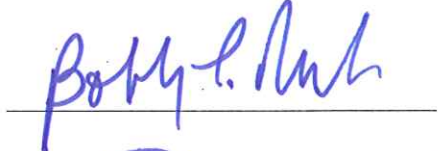
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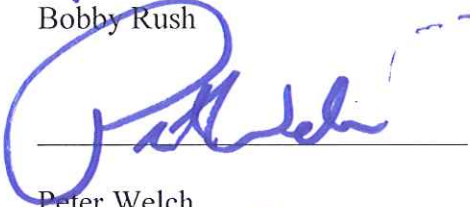
Rubén Hinojosa



Adam Smith



Bobby Rush



Peter Welch



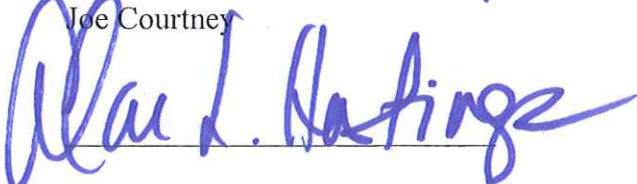
Carolyn B. Maloney



Tim Murphy



Joe Courtney



Alcee L. Hastings



James P. Moran



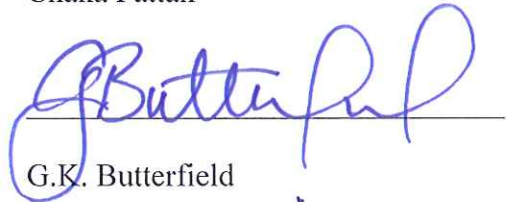
Bruce Braley



Barbara Lee



Chaka Fattah



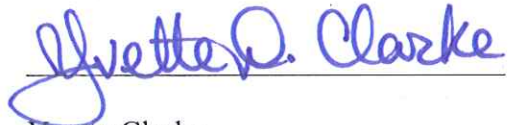
G.K. Butterfield



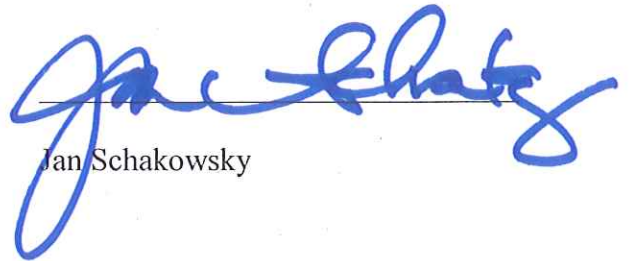
John D. Dingell



Albio Sires



Yvette Clarke



Jan Schakowsky

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Linda T. Sanchez

Linda T. Sanchez

Doris O. Matsui

Doris Matsui

John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Luján

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Luis Gutiérrez

Luis Gutiérrez

William Lacy Clay

William Lacy Clay

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.

Jim Gerlach

Jim Gerlach

Donna F. Edwards

Donna Edwards

André Carson

André Carson

Dina Titus

Dina Titus