

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

September 17, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

As we made clear this past May when you announced the debt ceiling agreement with President Biden, and as we reiterated again in [June](#) and [July](#), our Coalition stands ready to put partisanship aside and find common ground to fund the federal government and deliver on behalf of the American people. Unfortunately, the House majority has decided to abrogate the May agreement, and now seems willing to disregard its responsibility to ensure the uninterrupted operations of the government. Looking ahead to the September work period and looming fiscal deadline, it is imperative that we find a path to reach a constructive outcome.

Per the May agreement, the Senate Appropriations Committee has successfully reported out all 12 appropriations bills on a strong bipartisan basis and is beginning floor consideration. These bills include funding levels that reflect the bipartisan, bicameral budget caps enacted in the debt ceiling deal that you negotiated with President Biden and which we supported.

In stark contrast to the Senate's bipartisan approach, the House Appropriations Committee has run an entirely partisan process and has consequently failed to report out all of its funding legislation. The bills the Committee has been able to advance have passed along strictly partisan lines and include unnecessary "culture war" poison pills that leave the associated legislation with no chance of becoming law. Even more alarming, the funding levels enacted by these bills reflect a deeply unserious, hyperpartisan approach to governing — for example, the proposed Agriculture appropriations bill slashes funding by over 30% compared to FY23 levels, to a funding level not seen since 2007. If enacted, these bills would make deep cuts to critical federal programs, including programs that fund local police departments, invest in critical transportation and infrastructure projects, and make housing more affordable for families.

We urge you to reject the hyperpartisan approach and focus on passing government funding legislation that can actually become law. In the absence of viable appropriations bills from the House Appropriations Committee, we urge you to, at the very least, bring bills similar to the bipartisan bills that have already passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on the House Floor. Whether the Senate bills pass or fail, all Representatives — Republicans and Democrats — deserve the opportunity to show their constituents that they are working to responsibly keep the government open.

In addition, recognizing that the House and Senate are unlikely to finish consideration of regular appropriations bills by the fiscal year-end deadline, the House should expediently consider legislation in order to avert a government shutdown. Furthermore, any stop-gap bill should include President Biden's supplemental appropriations request to fund critical domestic and international priorities, from recent natural disasters and the fentanyl crisis, to the ongoing fight to protect Ukrainian freedom and sovereignty.

Finally, Congress must pass extensions of critical federal programs set to expire, including Farm Bill programs, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Flood Insurance Program.

As Members of Congress, our most basic duty is to keep the government running. Once again, as we face the looming deadline of September 30, we stand ready to work on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to uphold our responsibilities as lawmakers and ensure our government works on behalf of our constituents.

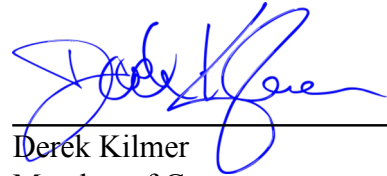
Sincerely,



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



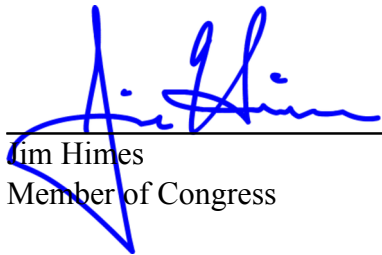
Ann McLane Kuster  
Chair  
New Democrat Coalition



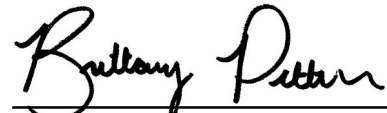
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



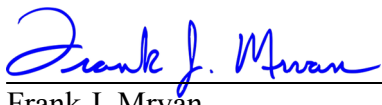
Patrick K. Ryan  
Member of Congress



Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



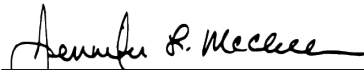
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



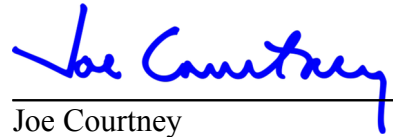
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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



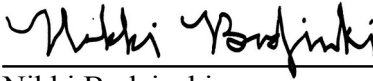
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



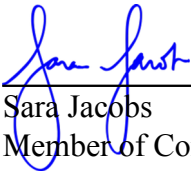
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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



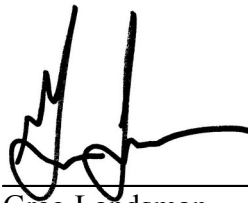
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



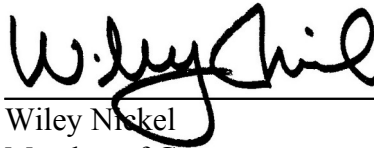
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



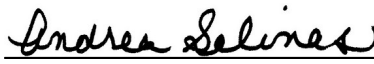
Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



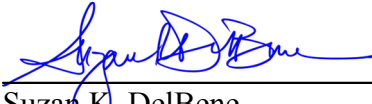
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



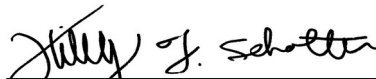
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



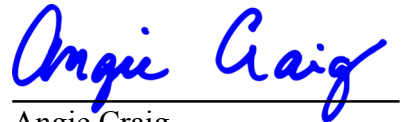
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



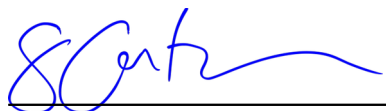
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress




Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



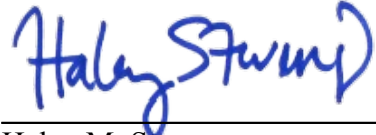
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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



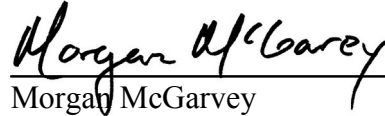
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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



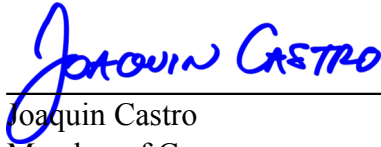
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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



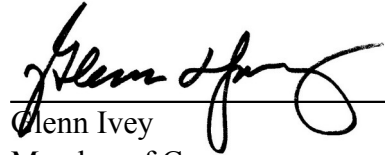
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



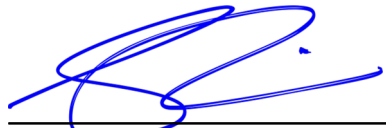
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Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



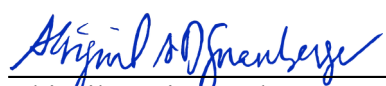
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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



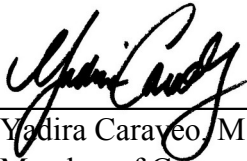
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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



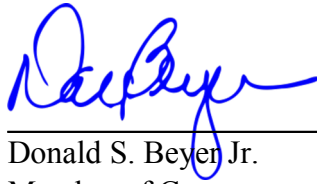
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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Yedira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



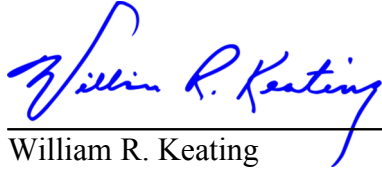
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



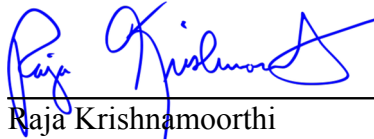
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Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, Economic and  
Consumer Policy



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, Congressional  
Black Caucus



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Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



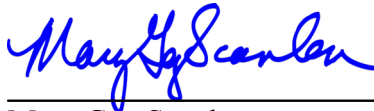
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress