

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

September 17, 2013

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Minority Leader Pelosi, Minority Whip Hoyer, Chairman Lucas, and Ranking Member Peterson:

We oppose the de-coupling of the agriculture and nutrition titles in H.R. 2642, the "Farm only" Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act, but there is another policy related to the agricultural provisions that has our support – conservation compliance. Should the House and Senate conference on a Farm Bill, any final conference agreement should contain conservation compliance language similar to what is currently in S. 954, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013.

As a result of conservation compliance measures Congress enacted in 1985, farmers have adopted basic land management practices to reduce soil erosion and protect wetlands in exchange for farm program benefits. As a result of these measures, soil erosion has been reduced by 40 percent on over 140 million acres of farmland. Agricultural productivity has increased, drinking water and important habitat have been protected, and water quality has improved. Through conservation compliance, we've improved our water quality and drinking water supplies and protected important habitat. Conservation compliance has contributed to a more sustainable agriculture system and benefited farmers, consumers and the environment. These successes should be continued.

High land prices, driven by strong demand for our commodities, are boosting farm income and putting significant pressure on our land and water resources. This makes the current conservation compliance provisions all the more important. As agricultural policy shifts from a system of direct payments to a system of crop insurance and risk management, conservation compliance must be included in all agricultural income support programs, including crop insurance.

The Senate extended conservation compliance to their crop insurance and revenue support programs, and there is significant support for such provisions in the House. We urge you to include conservation compliance in any eventual conference report.

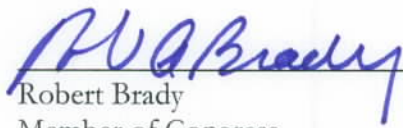
Sincerely,



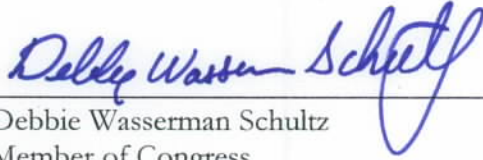
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



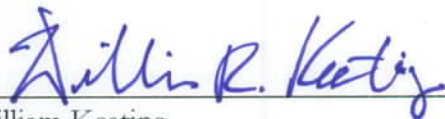
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



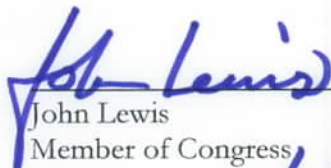
Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress



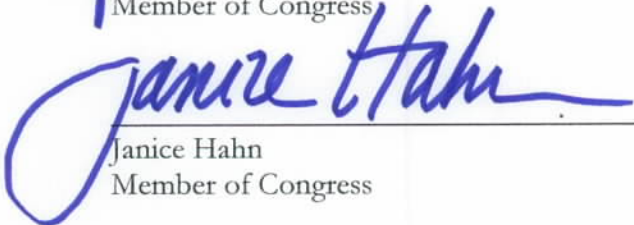
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



William Keating  
Member of Congress



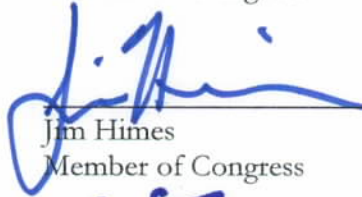
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



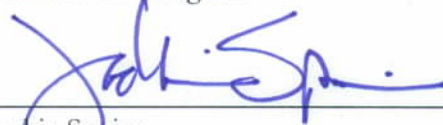
Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



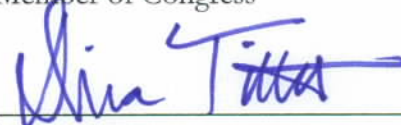
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

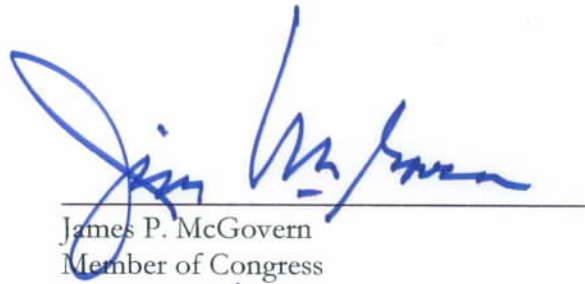


Karen Bass  
Member of Congress





Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



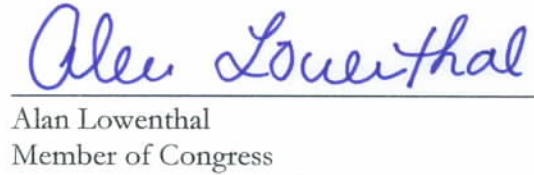
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



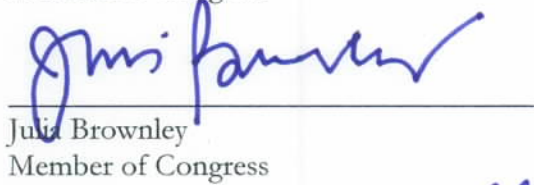
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



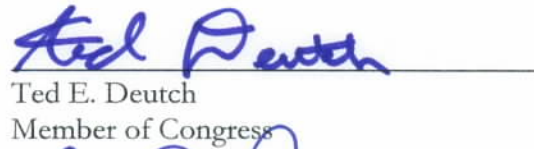
Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress



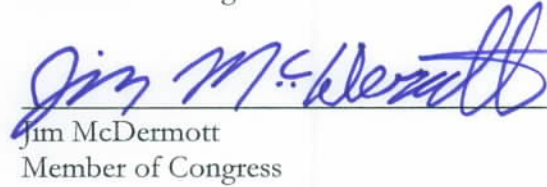
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



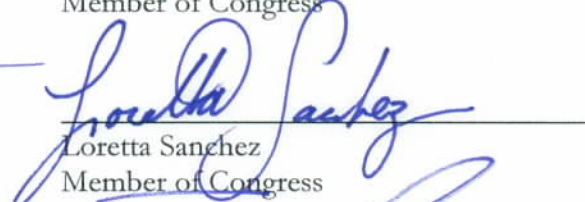
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Ted E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



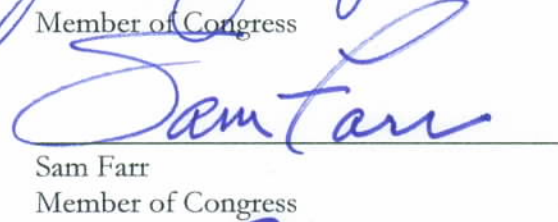
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress




Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



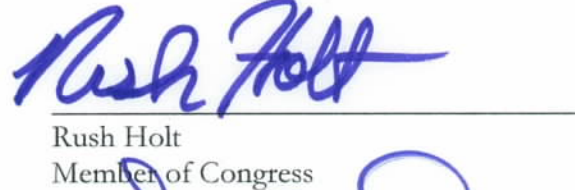
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



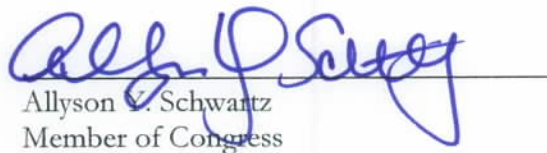
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



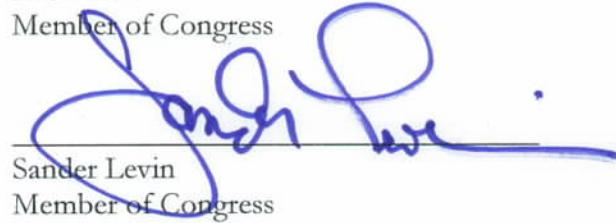
Robert "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Allyson V. Schwartz  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



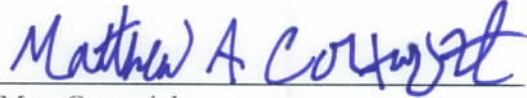
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



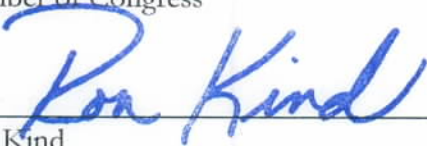
John Carney  
Member of Congress



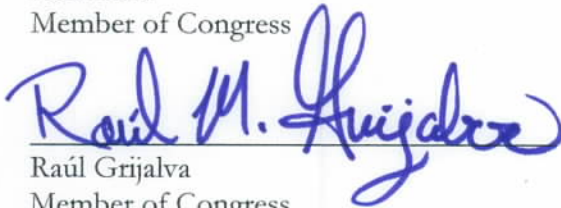
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



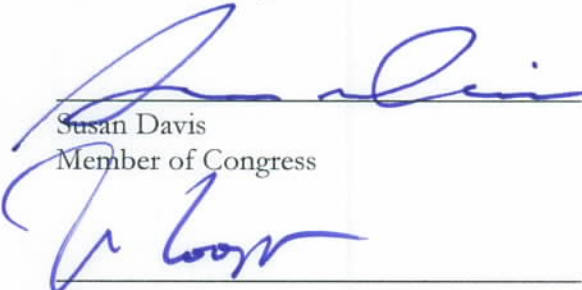
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



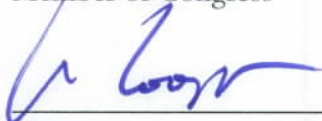
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress




Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



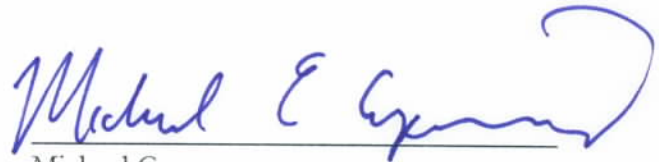
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



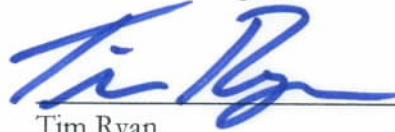
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress




Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



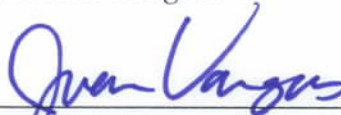
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress



John Delaney  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



*Michael M. Honda*  
Mike Honda  
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*Daniel Lipinski*  
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*Corrine Brown*  
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*Peter DeFazio*  
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*David Price*  
David Price  
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*George Miller*  
George Miller  
Member of Congress

*Maxine Waters*  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

*Elijah Cummings*  
Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress

*Hank Johnson, Jr.*  
Hank Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Betty McCollum*  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

*Beto O'Rourke*  
Beto O'Rourke  
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*Stephen Lynch*  
Stephen Lynch  
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*Eliot Engel*  
Eliot Engel  
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*Marcy Kaptur*  
Marcy Kaptur  
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*Jim Matheson*  
Jim Matheson  
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*Lois Capps*  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

*John Tierney*  
John Tierney  
Member of Congress


*Keith Ellison*  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress




Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



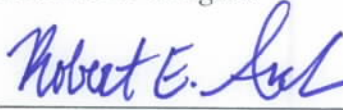
James Moran  
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



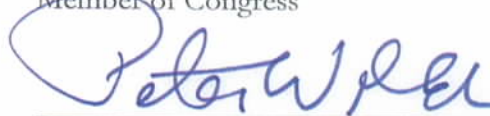
Rob Andrews  
Member of Congress



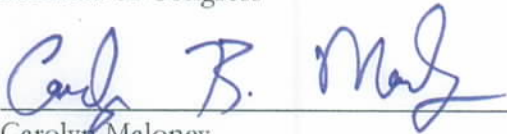
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



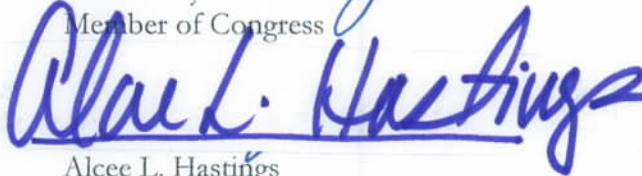
John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress



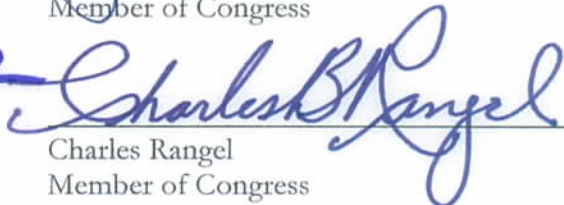
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



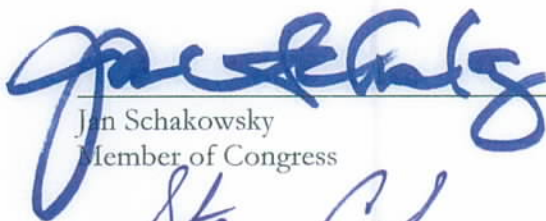
Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



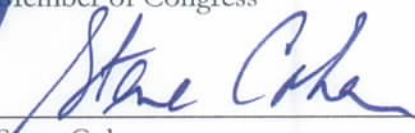
Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



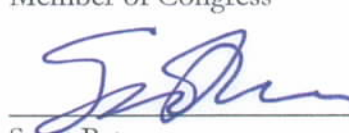
Jen Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

*Rosa DeLauro*

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

*Linda J. Sanchez*

Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

*John Conyers*

John Conyers  
Member of Congress

*Doris O. Matsui*

Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

*John Sarbanes*

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

*Donna F. Edwards*

Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

*Ben Ray Lujan*

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

*Steve Israel*

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

*Paul D. Tonko*

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

*Bennie Thompson*

Bennie Thompson  
Member of Congress

*Louise M. Slaughter*

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

*Tim Bishop*

Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress

*Jerrold Nadler*

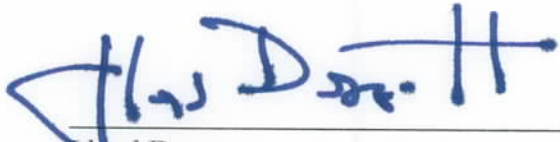
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

*Patrick E. Murphy*

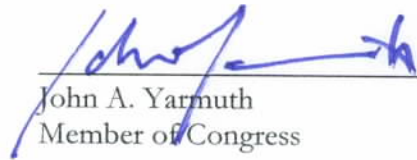
Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress







Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

CC: Senator Stabenow, Senator Cochran