

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert:

We urge you to support a funding level of **\$154.466 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Interior Appropriations bill** to support the NEA's core mission to bring the arts to every American. The NEA reached its peak funding at \$176 million in 1992, and has never fully recovered from a 40 percent budget cut in FY 1996.

According to the NEA, for every one dollar we spend on federal arts initiatives we see nine non-federal dollars leveraged, generating roughly \$600 million in matching support while at the same time enriching our children and communities with access to the arts they might not otherwise have. Moreover, forty percent of all NEA program funds—approximately \$46 million in FY13—are re-granted through state arts agencies. Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding.

This level of funding for FY15 will help the NEA maintain its extremely successful programs, including *The Big Read*, *Our Town*, *Challenge America*, *The Mayor's Institute on City Design*, *Blue Star Museums*, *Shakespeare in American Communities* and *Operation Homecoming*, which help the NEA reach every congressional district in the country, serving rural and urban communities; impacting veterans, businesses, and schools. In FY13, the NEA awarded over \$112 million in appropriated funds through **just over 2,100 grants reaching all 441 congressional districts**. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

The NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide. Each year, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity, and provides 4.13 million full-time jobs. At the same time, this industry returns \$9.59 billion to the federal government in income taxes. The National Governor's Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognize the enormous value of the arts in our communities and regional economies by approving resolutions and publishing reports in support of federal arts funding.

Arts and culture-related industries provide direct economic benefits to states and communities: they create jobs, attract investments, generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. These businesses employ 3.35 million people, representing 4.42 percent of all businesses and 2.15 percent of all employees, respectively. America's arts and entertainment are also leading exports, with estimates of more than \$30 billion annually in overseas sales.

Just last year, the American creative sector was also measured by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The BEA and the NEA developed an "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" which calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) at 3.2 percent—or **\$504 billion**—of

current-dollar GDP in 2011. From the work of nonprofit arts agencies to the impact of cultural tourism, the creative sector is important to state economies all across the country.

The NEA supports life-long learning in the arts. The NEA's education programs have helped to sustain support in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to help close the education achievement gap and also benefit children and adults in many important ways throughout their lives. Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point averages in core academic subjects, score better on standardized tests, and have lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.

We strongly urge you to support NEA funding at \$154.466 million in the Fiscal Year 2015 Interior Appropriations bill. By approving this level of funding, you will maintain the NEA's ability to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request, and hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus
Member of Congress



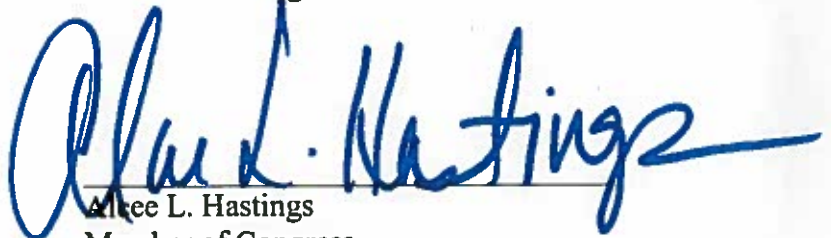
James P. Moran
Interior Subcommittee Ranking Member
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



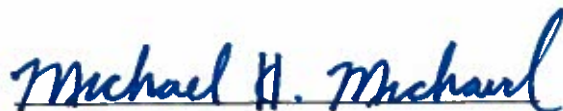
John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



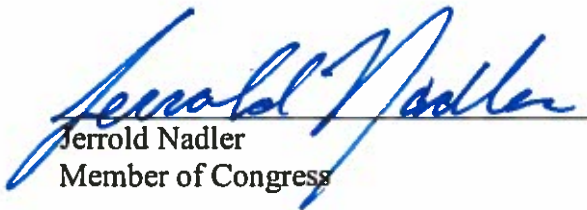
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

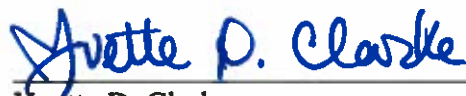

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress


Michael G. Grimm
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


Rubén Hinojosa
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Henry A. Waxman
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Corrine Brown
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James P. McGovern
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Barbara Lee
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Janice D. Schakowsky
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Timothy H. Bishop
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John F. Tierney
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David N. Cicilline
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Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

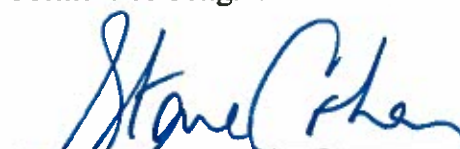

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress

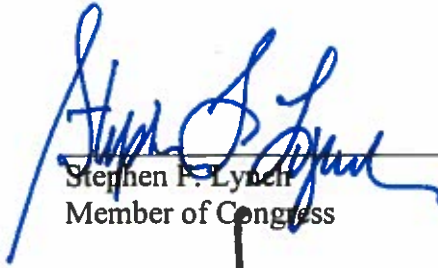

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Steve Cohen
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Zoe Lofgren
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
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Colleen W. Hanabusa
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Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



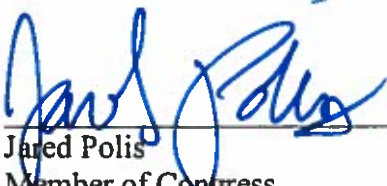
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



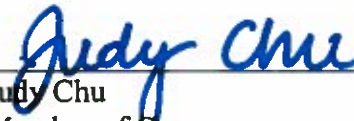
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
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Joe Courtney
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



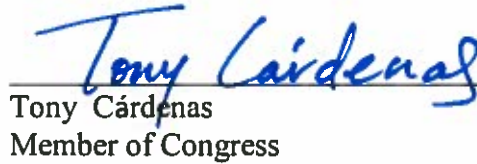
Michael E. Capuano
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Beto O'Rourke
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Luis V. Gutierrez
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Tony Cárdenas
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Denny Heck
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



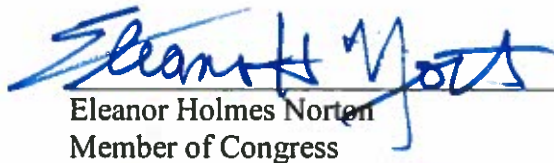
David Price
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



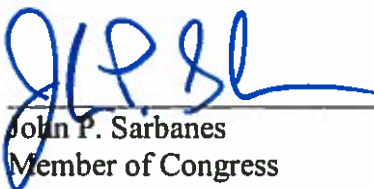
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



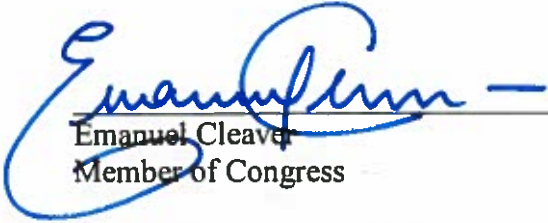
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



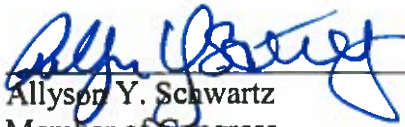
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



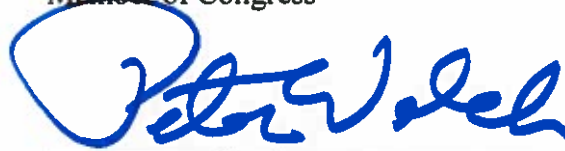
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
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Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



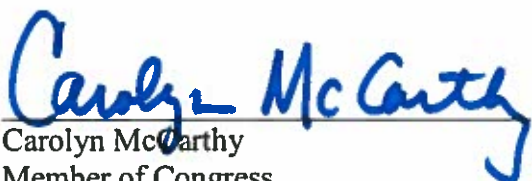
Al Green
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



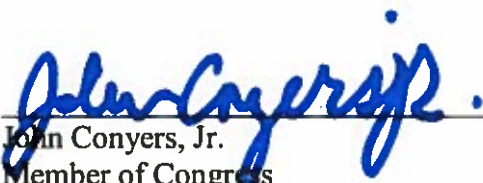
Bruce L. Braley
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



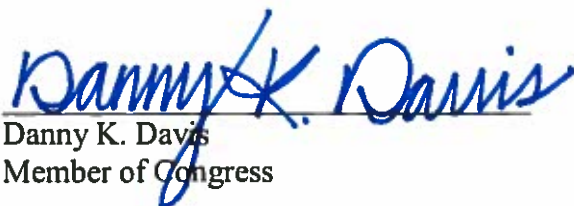
Matthew A. Cartwright
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



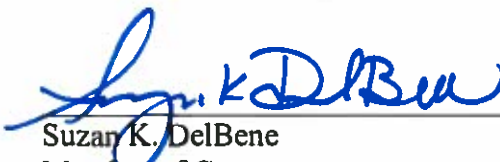
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



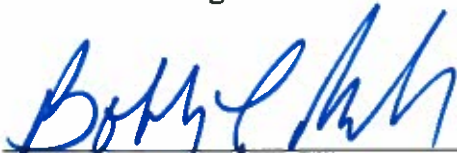
Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



James A. Hines
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress




Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



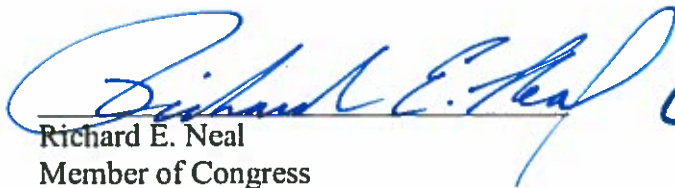
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Pete P. Gallego
Member of Congress



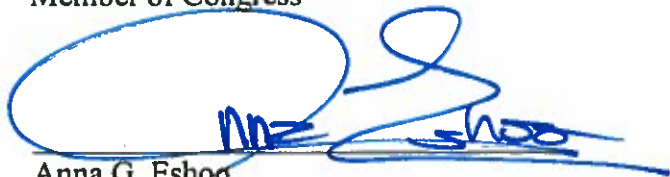
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
SH-125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We write to express appreciation for your continued support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and to urge you to again support a \$155 million funding level for each of the endowments. Federal support for the arts and humanities is a vital economic, educational, and cultural priority that impacts communities large and small all across the United States, serving veterans, aiding businesses and redevelopment, enhancing student learning, and impacting our future. For almost 50 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts and has proudly expanded arts activity across the nation with the mission "to bring arts to every American." Every dollar spent on federal arts initiatives leverages nine non-federal dollars enriching children and communities through access to the arts that they would otherwise not have.

Federal funding for the NEA acts as seed money that generates massive economic return. The non-profit arts industry generates over \$135 billion annually in economic activity and supports 4.13 million full-time jobs. Additionally, the federal government enjoys a direct return of \$9.59 billion in income taxes, as well as the indirect benefit of improved education, community development, and increased business activity across the country. Just last year, the American creative sector was also measured by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) through their "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" which calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) at 3.2 percent—or \$504 billion—of current-dollar GDP in 2011.

The requested funding for FY15 for the NEA will help the endowment maintain its extremely successful programs, including *The Big Read*, *Our Town*, *Challenge America*, *The Mayor's Institute on City Design*, *Blue Star Museums*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, and the *NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership*. In FY13, the NEA awarded over \$112 million in appropriated funds through just over 2,100 grants reaching all 435 congressional districts. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

The NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research and related activities in the United States. It provides support for professional development to scholars, educators, curators, librarians, historians, filmmakers, and more. Through the endowment's efforts, our national heritage is preserved, civic institutions are strengthened, and Americans are better prepared to address the challenges in a constantly changing world. In addition to appropriated funding, the NEH is able to leverage

significant, non-federal contributions through competitive grant awards, with direct matching totaling more than \$2 billion over the last few decades.

Federal funding for the NEH includes support for state humanities councils that work in partnership with the endowment to reach millions of Americans each year through teacher institutes, family literacy programs, and thousands of other efforts. With this extensive network of state humanities councils and general NEH programming, the endowment reaches every state and territory across the nation.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEA and NEH continue to play a vital role in every state. We urge you to continue to support federal funding of the arts and humanities in FY15 with a \$155 million funding level for each of the endowments in the final appropriations legislation. We appreciate your attention to this vital funding, and look forward to working with you on this and the other important issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator

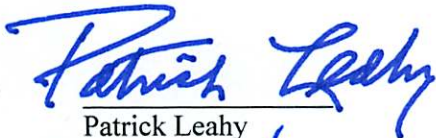


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

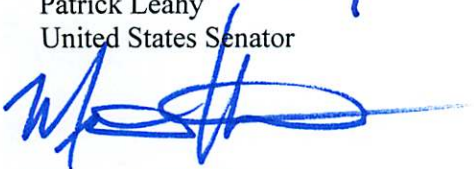
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



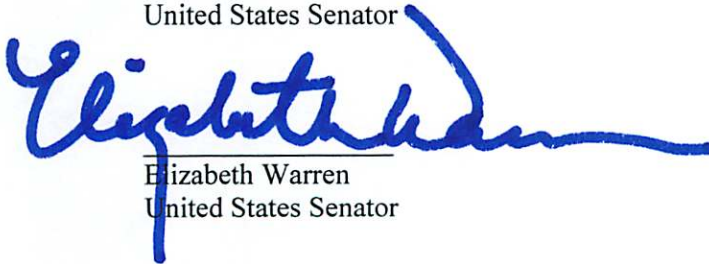
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



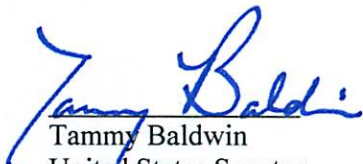
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Carl Levin
United States Senator



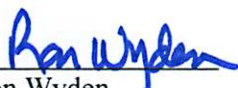
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



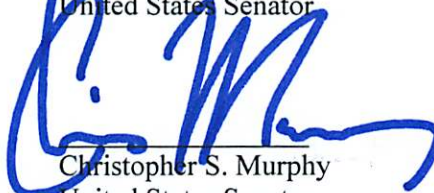
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



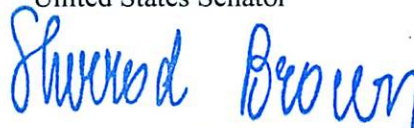
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



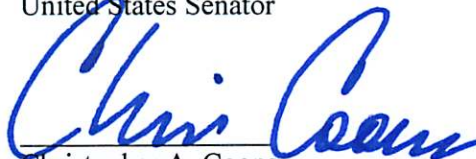
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



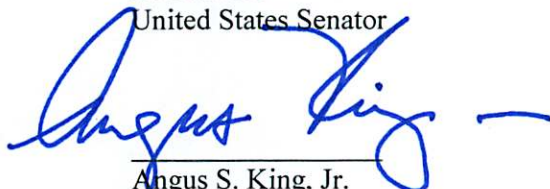
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



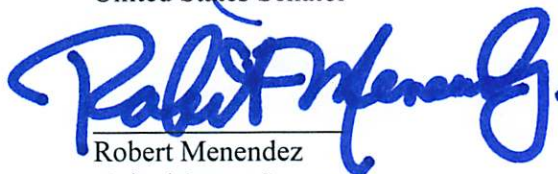
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator




Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Dick Durbin
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator