

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

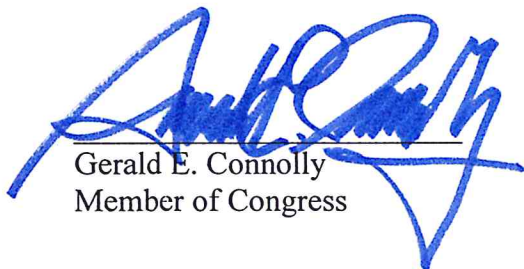
As the Committee on Appropriations begins to consider government funding legislation, we urge you to include a provision to provide back pay to federal contractor employees for the wages lost as a result of the recent 35-day partial government shutdown. While Congress and the Administration came to an agreement to reopen the government last month, we must act to ensure that these federal contractor employees are made whole.

Employees of federal contractors and their families should not be penalized for a government shutdown that they did nothing to cause. As a result of the nearly five week shutdown, federal contractor employees lost more than a month's pay and missed several paychecks. While federal employees received back pay at the end of the shutdown, federal contractors did not.

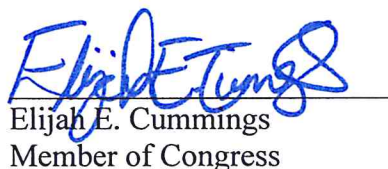
Federal contractor employees perform jobs that are critical to the operations of our government, such as food service, security, and custodial work. These are often low-wage jobs where the result of even one missed paycheck is can lead to financial distress. The shutdown has left contractors, who often work shoulder-to-shoulder with federal employees, struggling or unable to pay their mortgage, rent, or other household bills. Some have even had to turn to foodbanks to meet their household needs.

There are bipartisan bills in both the Senate and House of Representatives that would provide back pay to compensate federal contractor employees for their lost wages. As supporters of these efforts, we strongly urge you to include back pay for federal contractor employees in any supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2019 or as part of the regular appropriations process for FY2020.

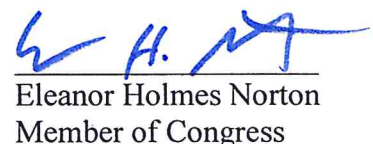
Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



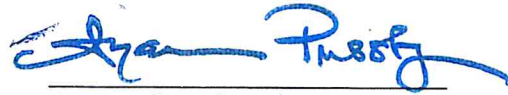
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



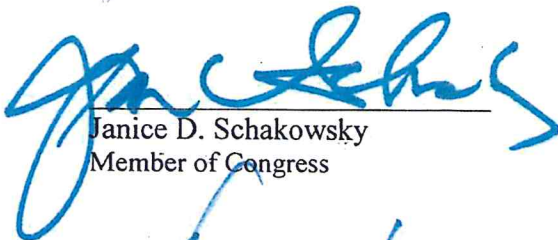
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



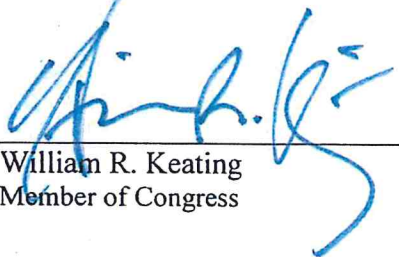
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



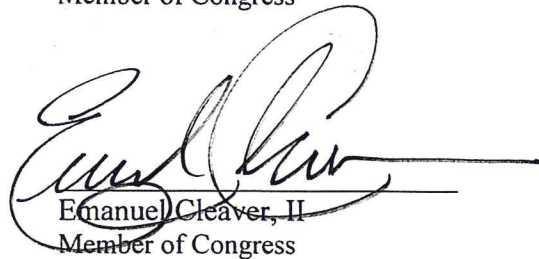
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



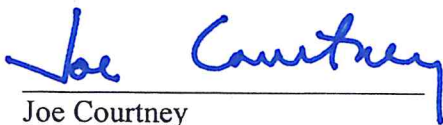
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



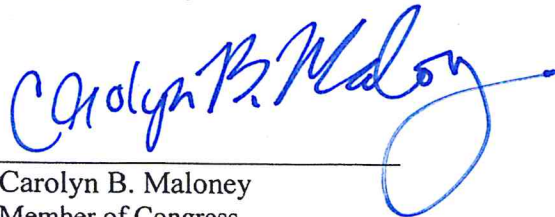
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



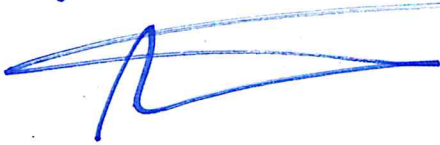
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Adriano Esplallat
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



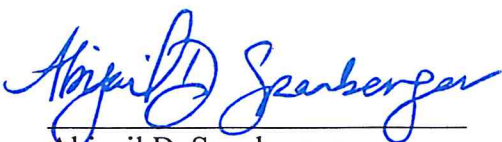
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



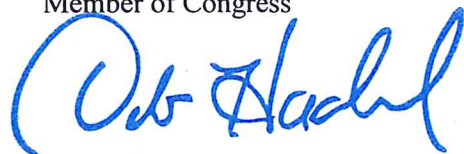
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



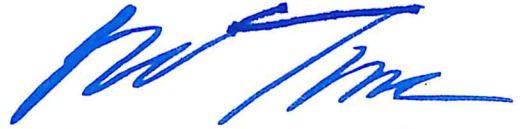
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Debra A. Haaland
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



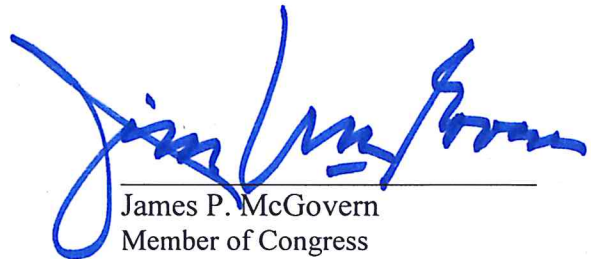
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



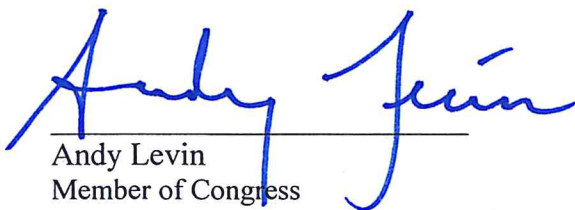
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Donald A. McEachin
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



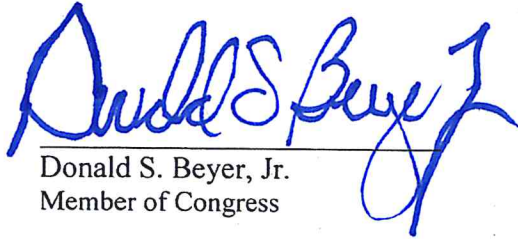
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress