

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

June 13, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
H-107 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
H-148 U.S. Capitol Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On May 25, 2016, the Senate voted 55 to 43 in favor of S.J. Res. 28, a bipartisan joint resolution of disapproval under the procedures of the Congressional Review Act. This joint resolution would disapprove of the rule creating the U.S. Department of Agriculture catfish program and return inspection of catfish back to the Food and Drug Administration, which currently regulates all other species of seafood. The House should be afforded the opportunity for a floor vote on this important joint resolution before the August work period.

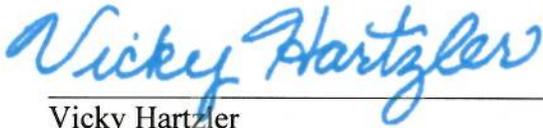
As a reminder, the USDA catfish program was added by the Senate to the 2008 Farm Bill conference report. It was in neither the House bill nor the Senate bill and was never subject to a hearing, debate or a vote before it appeared in the 2008 conference report. This language unnecessarily shifts catfish inspection from the FDA to the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Any facility that processes catfish and any other species of fish is subject to duplicative regulation: USDA for catfish and FDA for all other species. We believe the best use of taxpayers' dollars is to have one regulator for seafood by returning the oversight of catfish to the FDA.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has 10 times stated that this program is "duplicative" and at "high risk" for fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. GAO concludes that the USDA catfish program "would result in duplication of federal programs and cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually without enhancing the safety of catfish intended for human consumption." (GAO-13-283) This is not a food safety issue. USDA acknowledges that catfish, regardless of where it comes from, is considered a "low risk food." Similarly, the GAO found no food safety data supporting the transfer of inspection to the USDA. President Obama agrees and has proposed to eliminate the USDA catfish program in previous budgets.

As you know, the House Committee on Agriculture voted to repeal this program last Congress during consideration of the Farm Bill by a bipartisan vote of 31 yeas to 15 nays, and the full House adopted the repeal of the USDA catfish program under the open rule

consideration of the Farm Bill. It is imperative that regular order and common sense prevail, and we respectfully request that this joint resolution be brought to the floor for immediate consideration.

Sincerely,



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



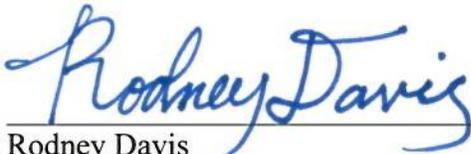
Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



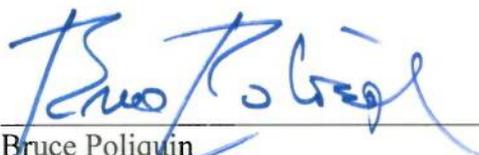
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold  
Member of Congress



Ann M. Kuster  
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress



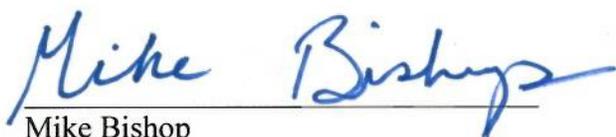
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



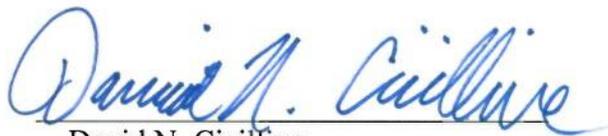
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Rod Blum  
Member of Congress



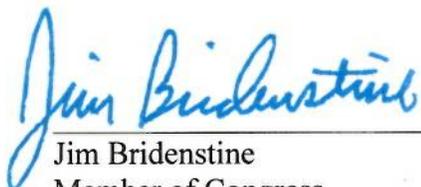
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



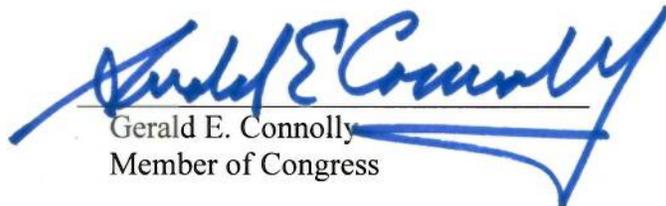
Dave Brat  
Member of Congress



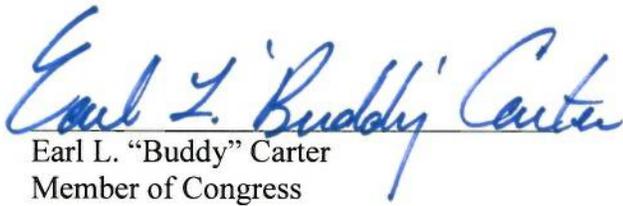
Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress

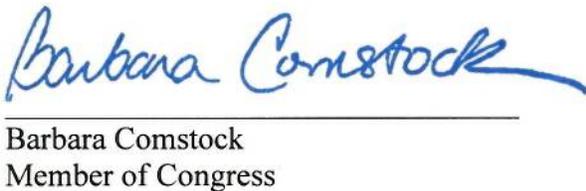
  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

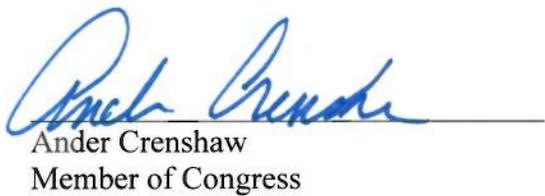
  
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Collins  
Member of Congress

  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

  
Ander Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

  
Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Renee L. Ellmers  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

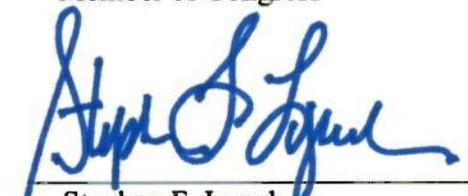
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



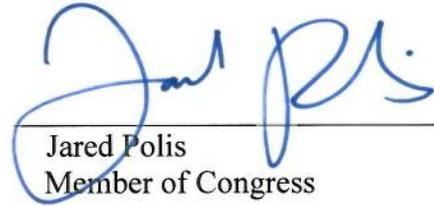
Andy Harris  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



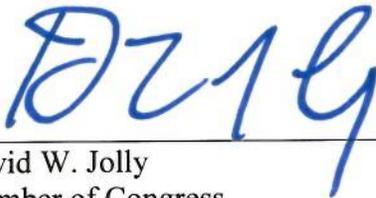
Robert "Bobby" C. Scott  
Member of Congress



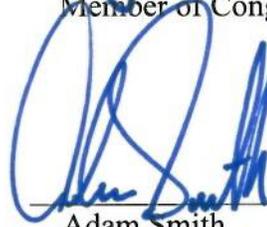
Robert Hurt  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



David W. Jolly  
Member of Congress



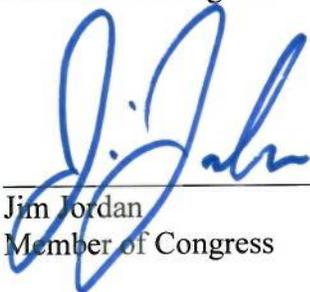
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



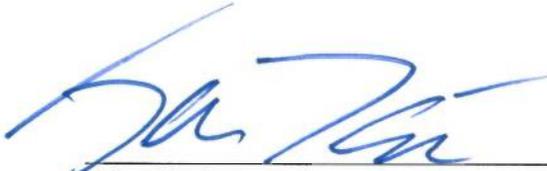
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



John Katko  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress



Cynthia M. Lummis  
Member of Congress



Martha McSally  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Richard B. Nugent  
Member of Congress



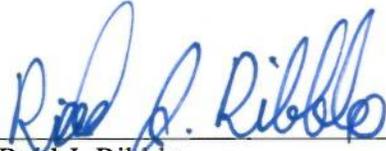
Don Young  
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress



Reid J. Ribble  
Member of Congress



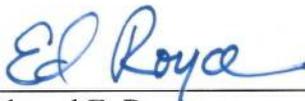
E. Scott Rigell  
Member of Congress



David P. Roe  
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



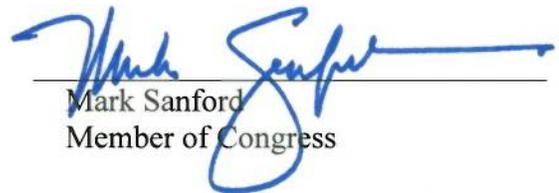
Edward E. Royce  
Member of Congress



Steve Russell  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Marlin A. Stutzman  
Member of Congress



GT Thompson  
Member of Congress



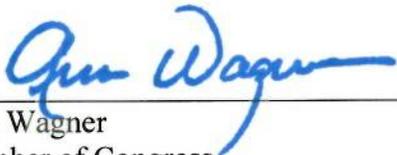
Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



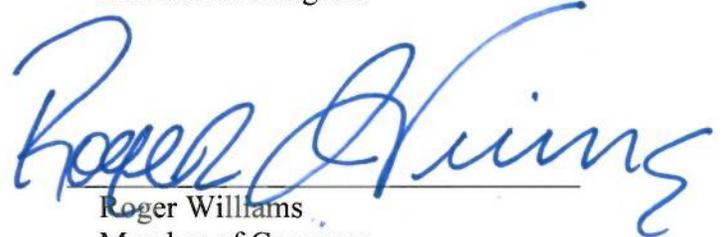
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Mark Walker  
Member of Congress



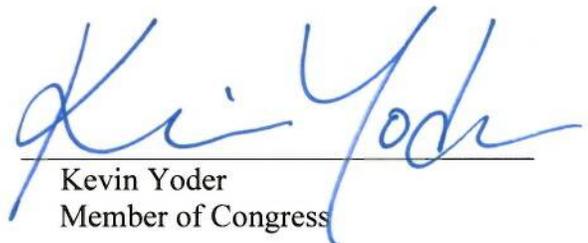
Lynn A. Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



George Holding  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



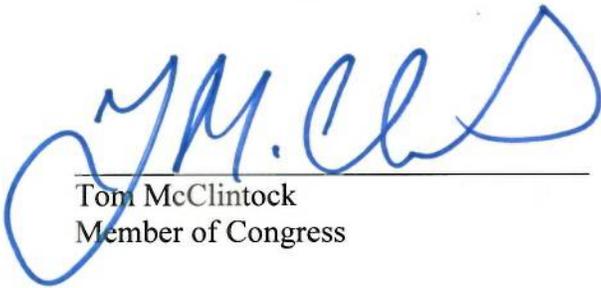
Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



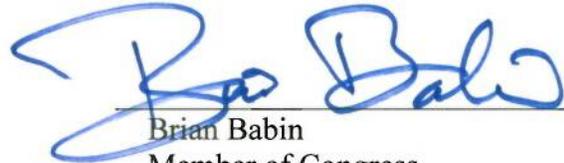
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



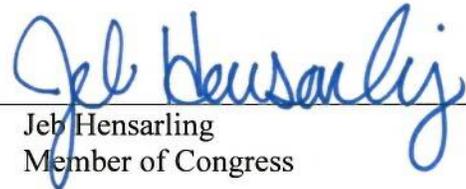
John Abney Culberson  
Member of Congress



Mia Love  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



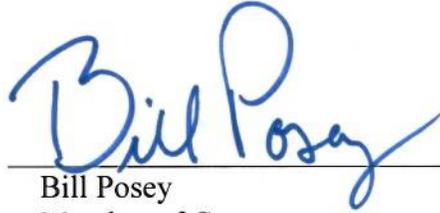
Mimi Walters  
Member of Congress



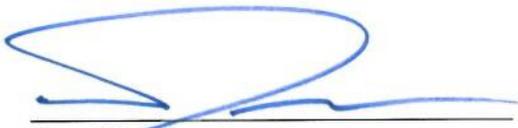
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



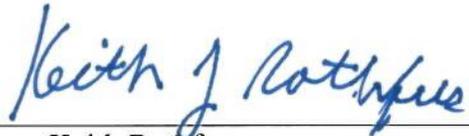
Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



David Loebsack  
Member of Congress



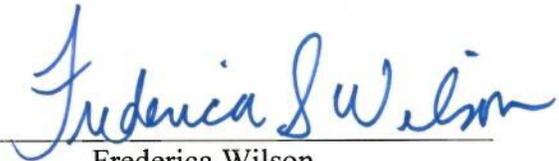
Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



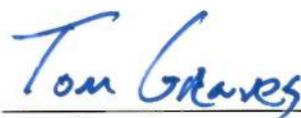
Todd Young  
Member of Congress



Diane Black  
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



Tom Graves  
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Theodore Deutch  
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



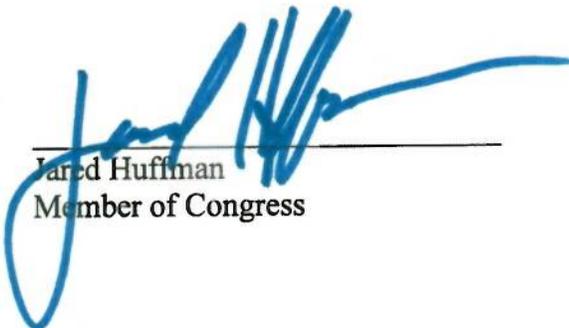
Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



David Young  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



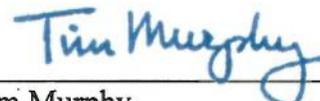
Cresent Hardy  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



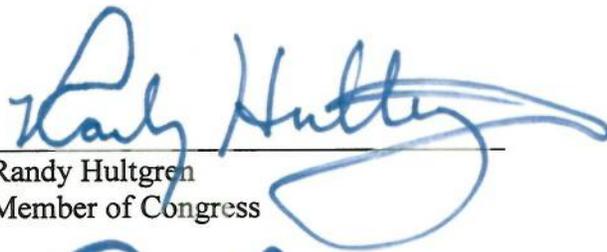
Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

  
Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

  
Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

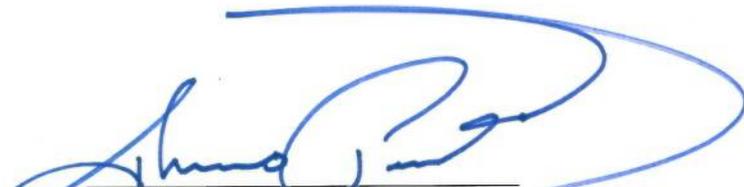
  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Price, M.D.  
Member of Congress