

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2014

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Price:

As you begin to draft the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to continue independently funding the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) at a level sufficient to enable the program to carry out actual mitigation projects.

Mitigation funding saves taxpayer money by decreasing the amount of damage experienced after disaster strikes. Two independent studies, prepared by the National Institute of Building Sciences and the Congressional Budget Office, found that mitigation saves taxpayers \$3 to \$4 for every \$1 invested. For Fiscal Year 2015, the President is requesting approximately \$7 billion to fund the Disaster Relief Fund. These funds are not intended to cover catastrophic events, such as Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina. This is our opportunity to lower the amount needed annually to provide disaster assistance.

But mitigation does far more than save money. Mitigation reduces injuries and saves lives by providing added protection to our citizens. Mitigation is an investment into our communities. By providing mitigation funds, we can help communities revitalize their economies through increased economic development caused by a willingness of businesses to stay in a protected community as well as providing jobs to complete the mitigation project.

Pre-disaster mitigation grant projects are particularly cost effective because they are selected through a competitive national process. As a result, pre-disaster mitigation projects consist of those most likely to result in the largest reduction in federal disaster and flood insurance payments.

While recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program would lower some flood insurance premiums, mitigation projects can reduce the actual risk of flood damage, avoid future disaster costs, and lower flood insurance premiums. Many of our constituents still cannot afford to pay their flood insurance premiums. Pre-disaster mitigation projects, such as relocating properties out of a flood plain and flood-proofing buildings, can begin to alleviate these problems.

Thank you for considering our request to sufficiently fund the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program at a level that allows for mitigation projects to be funded.

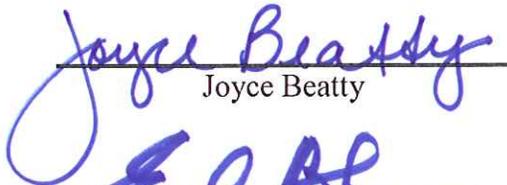
Sincerely,



Lou Barletta



Bill Cassidy



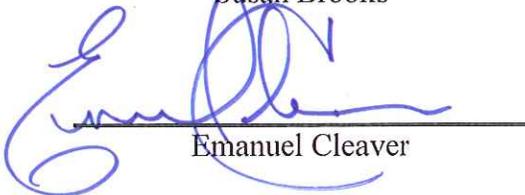
Joyce Beatty



Earl Blumenauer



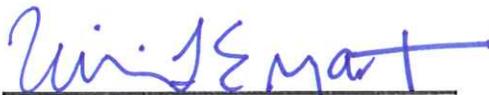
Susan Brooks



Emanuel Cleaver



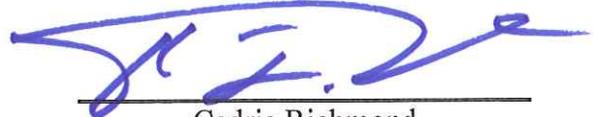
John Conyers



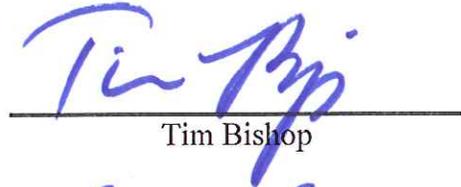
William Enyart



Andre Carson



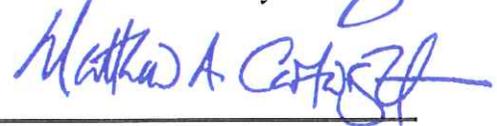
Cedric Richmond



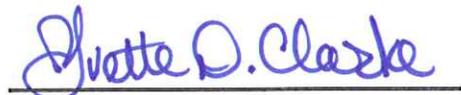
Tim Bishop



Bruce Braley



Matt Cartwright



Yvette Clarke



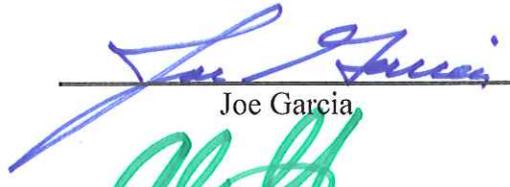
Rosa DeLauro



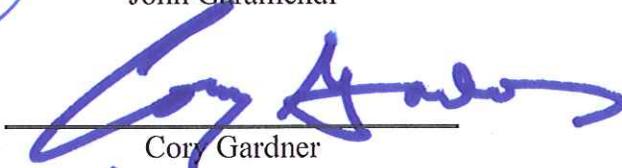
Elizabeth Esty



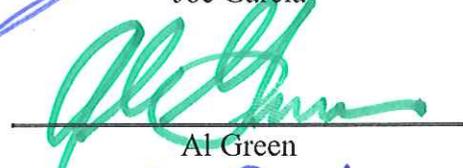
John Garamendi



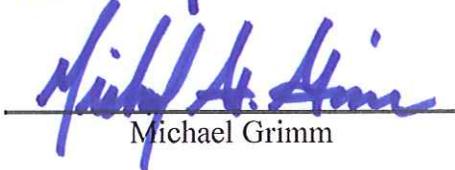
Joe Garcia



Cory Gardner



Al Green



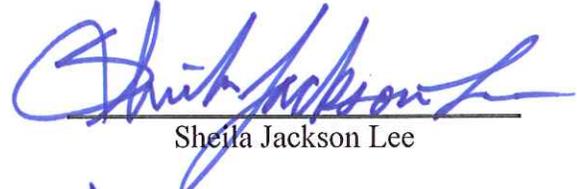
Michael Grimm



Richard Hanna



Brian Higgins



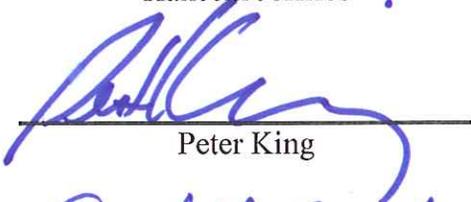
Sheila Jackson Lee



Hakeem Jeffries



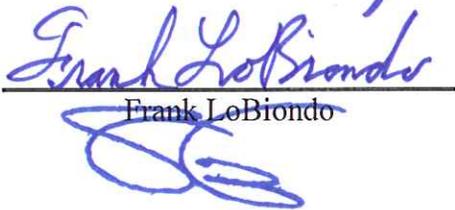
William Keating



Peter King



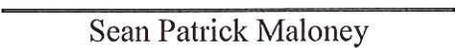
Ann Kirkpatrick



Frank LoBiondo



David Loeb sack



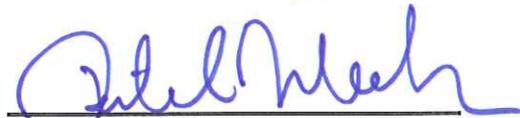
Sean Patrick Maloney



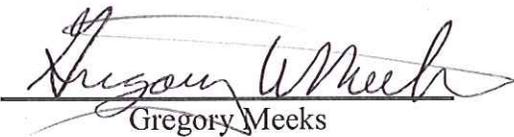
Tom Marino



Mike McIntyre



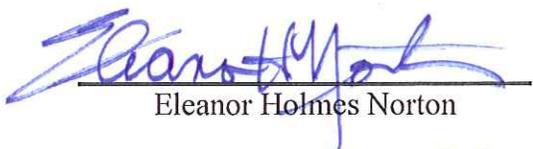
Pat Meehan



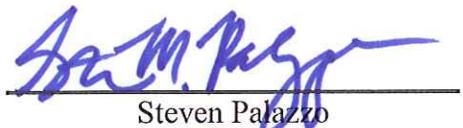
Gregory Meeks



Patrick Murphy



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Steven Palazzo



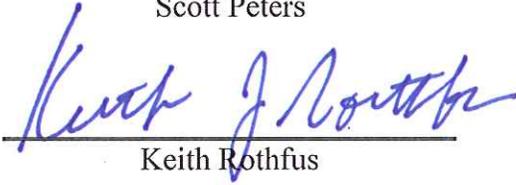
Bill Pascrell



Donald Payne



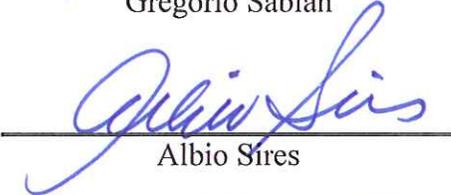
Scott Peters



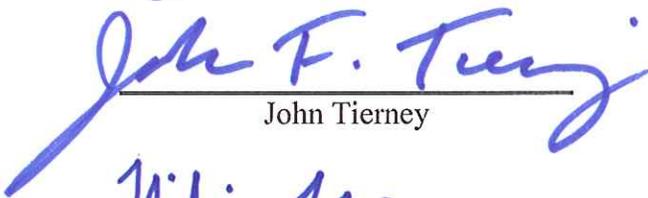
Keith Rothfus



Gregorio Sablan



Albio Sires



John Tierney



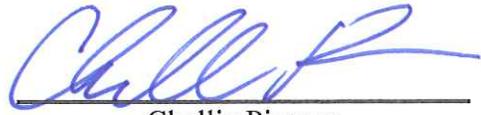
Niki Tsongas



Debbie Wasserman Schultz



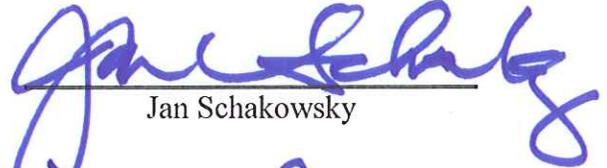
Frederica Wilson



Chellie Pingree



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger



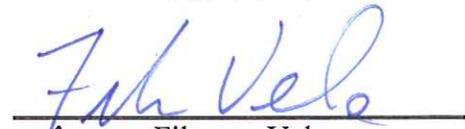
Jan Schakowsky



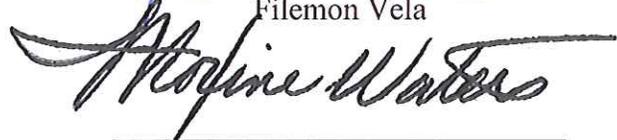
Jackie Speier



Paul Tonko



Filemon Vela



Maxine Waters



Timothy Walz