

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are seriously concerned about language in the recently passed Omnibus appropriations bill, H.R. 2764 (Public Law No. 110-161), that would undermine the construction of the border fence as directed under the Secure Fence Act of 2006.

The Omnibus removed the Secure Fence Act's important requirement for double-layered fencing and specific construction zones and benchmarks. The Omnibus subjects fence construction zones and benchmarks to the unrestricted judgment of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Additionally, language in the Omnibus likely would embroil fence construction in countless layers of bureaucracy which are certain to delay timely construction benchmarks.

Operational control of our borders should be among the highest priorities of Congress. Every sovereign country has the right to control who enters and remains within its borders. The United States is no exception. At risk are not only demographic and economic considerations, but also porous borders entice terrorists, drug cartel operatives and gang members to enter our country, and therefore our communities.

Americans acknowledge the geographic challenges of patrolling our vast 1900 mile southern border, and overwhelmingly support the construction of fencing along the border to help slow illegal entry into the United States. As always, Americans continue to welcome those who enter our country through the appropriate legal channels.

We urge that as Congress considers the legislative priorities of the coming year, construction of the fence be a top priority. To that end, we write to request that the language recently enacted removing the requirement for double-layered fencing and subjecting fence construction zones and benchmarks to the discretion of the Secretary of

Homeland Security be removed as soon as possible. We are united in asking that you support the completed construction of the fence and, thereby, the further securing of our borders.

Sincerely,



Bill Sali
Member of Congress



Ric Keller
Member of Congress



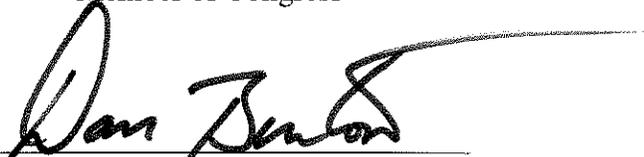
Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress



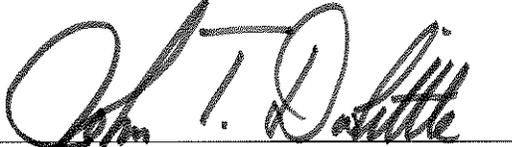
Tom Price
Member of Congress



Henry E. Brown, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



John T. Doolittle
Member of Congress



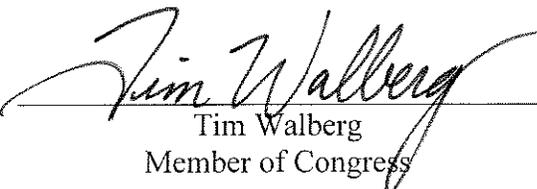
Mary Fallin
Member of Congress



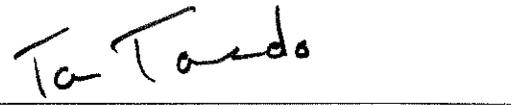
Geoff Davis
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



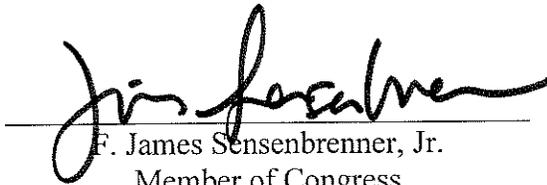
Thomas G. Tancredo
Member of Congress



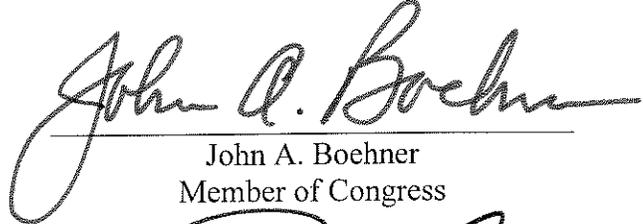
Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



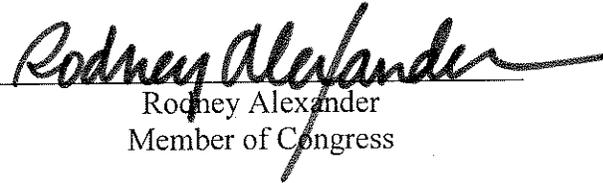
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



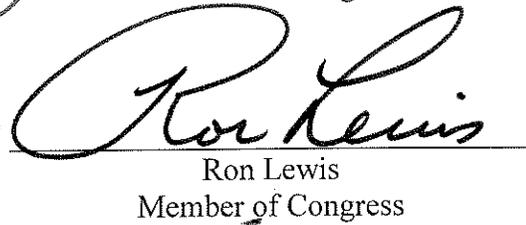
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



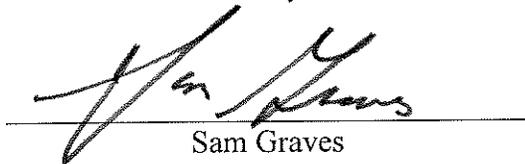
John A. Boehner
Member of Congress



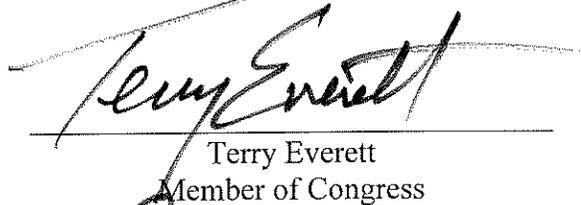
Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



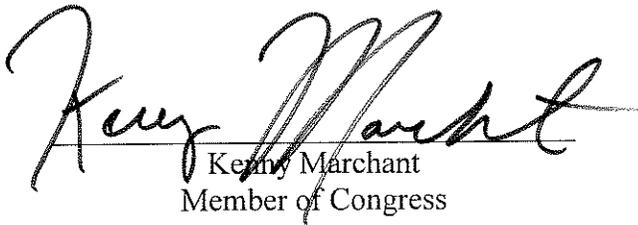
Ron Lewis
Member of Congress



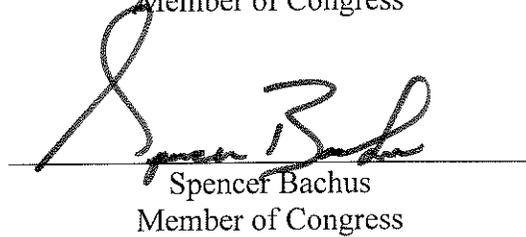
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Terry Everett
Member of Congress



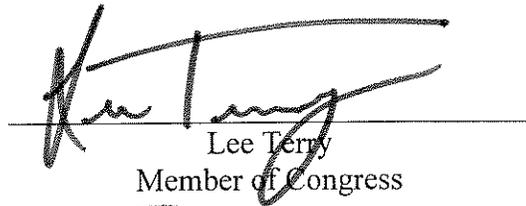
Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



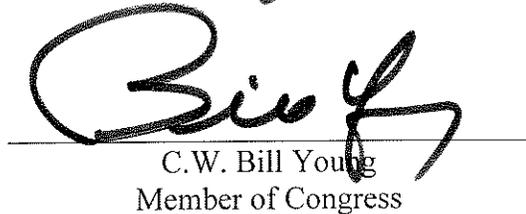
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress



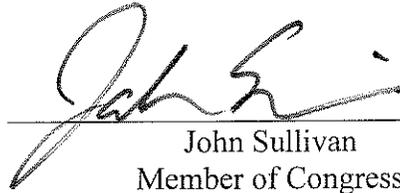
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress



Dennis R. Rehberg
Member of Congress



John Sullivan
Member of Congress



Phil English
Member of Congress



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress



W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress



Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Chris Cannon
Member of Congress



Steve Buyer
Member of Congress



Cliff Stearns
Member of Congress



Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



John Abney Culberson
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

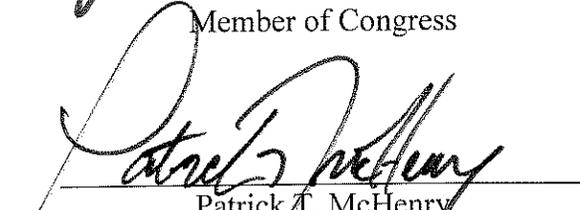


Jo Bonner
Member of Congress


Wally Herger
Member of Congress


John Kline
Member of Congress

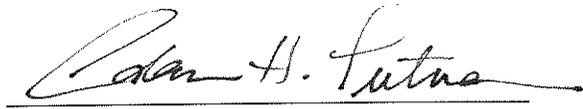

Trent Franks
Member of Congress


Patrick T. McHenry
Member of Congress

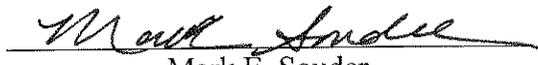

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress


Sue Wilkins Myrick
Member of Congress


David Davis
Member of Congress

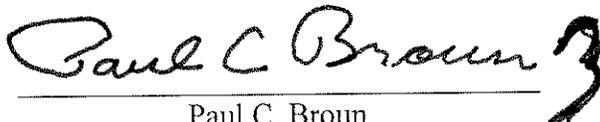

Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress

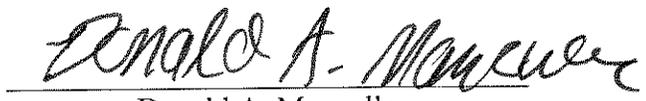

Scott Garrett
Member of Congress


Mark E. Souder
Member of Congress


Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress


Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress


Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress


Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress


Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

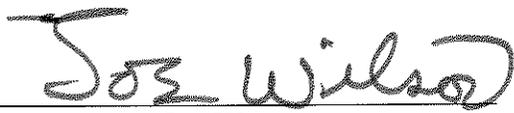

J. Gresham Barrett
Member of Congress


Virgil H. Goode, Jr.
Member of Congress

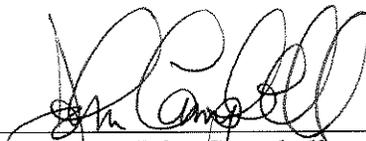

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

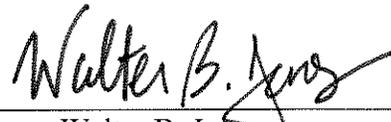

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

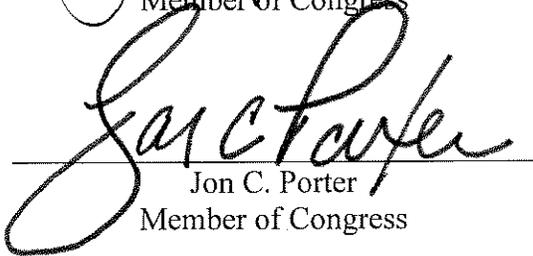

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

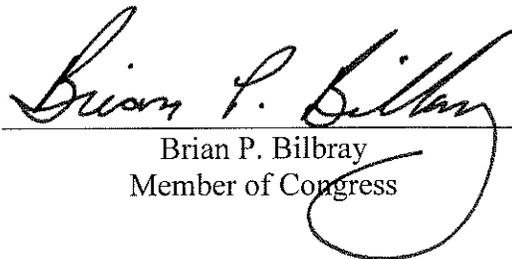

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress


Gary G. Miller
Member of Congress


John Campbell
Member of Congress

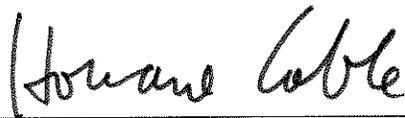

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Jon C. Porter
Member of Congress

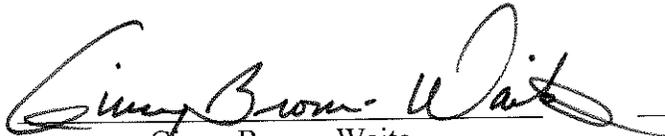

Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress

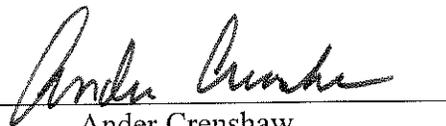

Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress

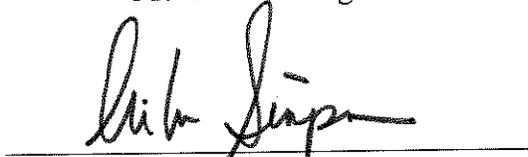

Darrell E. Issa
Member of Congress

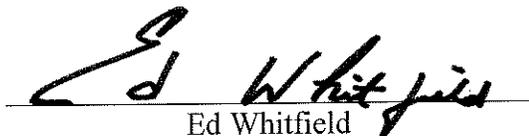

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

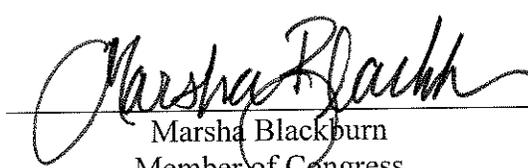

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

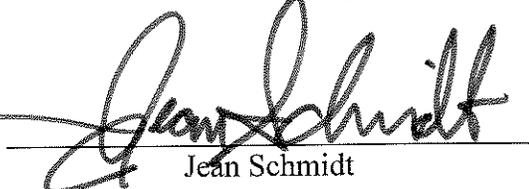

Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress


Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

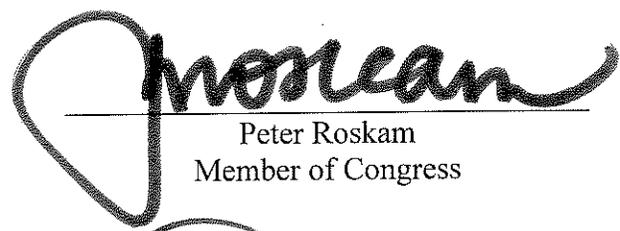

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress


Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

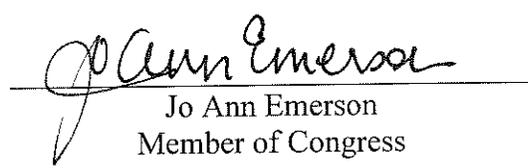

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

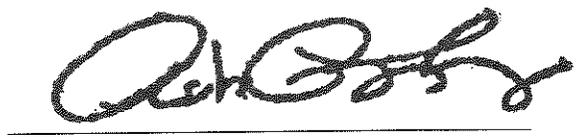

Gus M Bilirakis
Member of Congress


Peter Roskam
Member of Congress

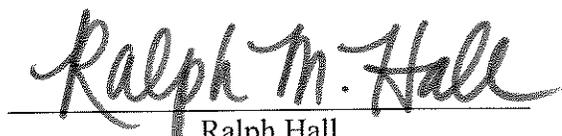

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

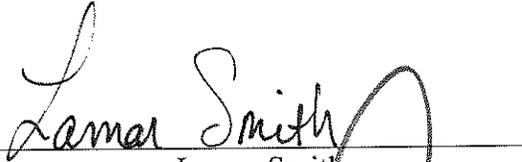

Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress

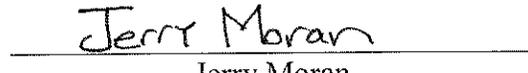

Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

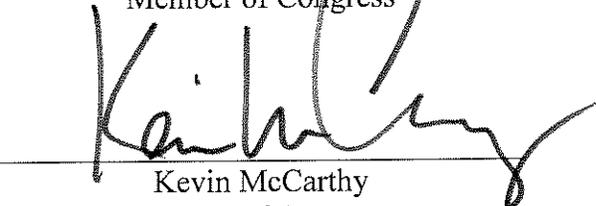

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress


Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

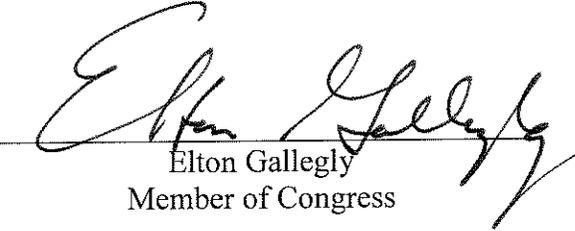

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress


Lamar Smith
Member of Congress


Jerry Moran
Member of Congress


Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress


John Shimkus
Member of Congress


Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress

Bob

Ann Hill

Gene King

Ed Farris

Virginia Fox

Marilyn Musgrave

Joy Pitts

John Dyer TA 26

Phil Renee

Raymond

Doug Femborn

John T. Dabille

Roscoe Bartlett

Paul Ben

Sam Johnson
