

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2017

Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We are writing to express our concerns about the recent announcement that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a directive preventing scientists with EPA grants from serving on the agency's scientific advisory boards. We are alarmed at the signal this sends about the EPA's willingness to seek out objective, independent scientific expertise in fulfilling its mandate to protect the environment.

As the advising bodies tasked with evaluating the scientific and technical aspects of EPA rulemaking and research programs, the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) should be comprised of independent, highly qualified experts on the scientific research.

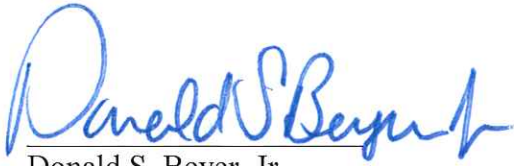
It would be an arbitrary and unnecessary limitation to disqualify preeminent experts from serving on these advisory boards because they have received EPA grants to conduct the research which has made them experts. Receiving an EPA grant, which is given with no expectation of particular results, does not constitute a conflict of interest – and no such limitation has been proposed on advisory board members who receive industry funding for their work. The SAB has been well-respected because of its historical inclusion of independent, objective scientists from both academic and industry backgrounds.

We urge you to maintain the rigorous standards and technical expertise of the science advisory boards at the EPA. It is in our country's best interest to ensure that EPA regulations have a sound scientific basis, and to ensure this we must have objective, independent, highly-qualified scientific advisors.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



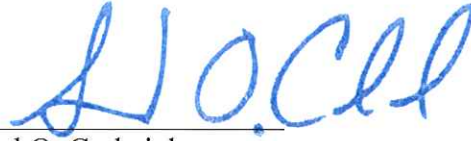
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



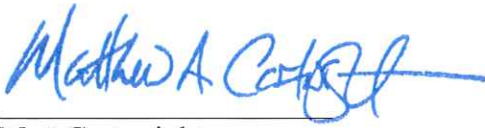
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



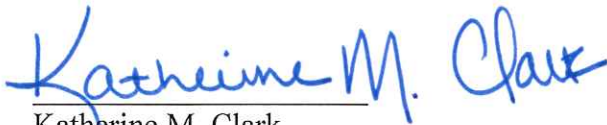
Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



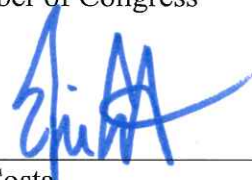
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



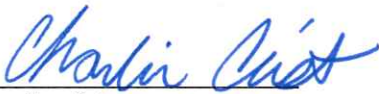
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



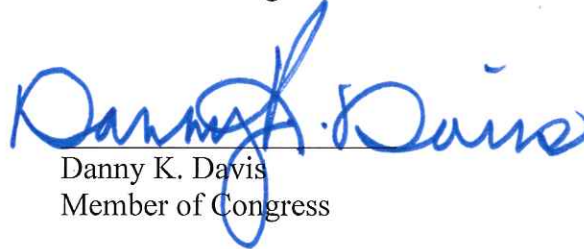
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



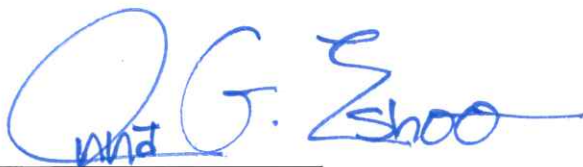
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



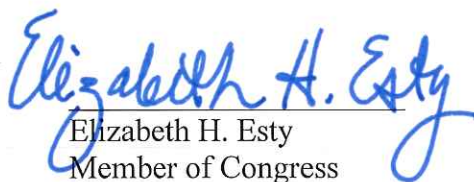
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



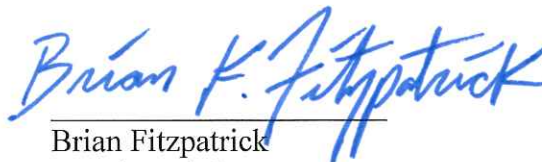
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



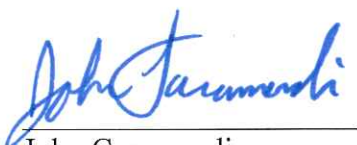
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



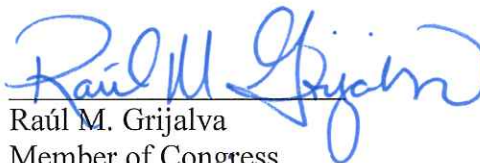
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



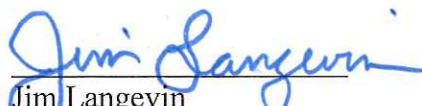
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress




Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress




Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



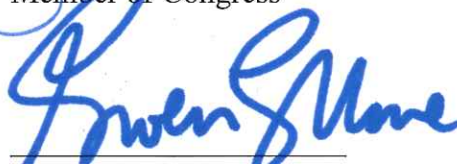
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



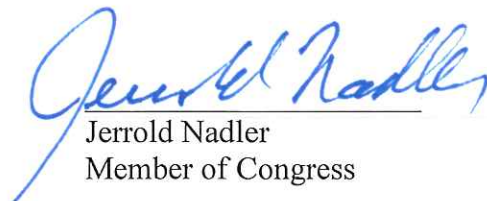
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



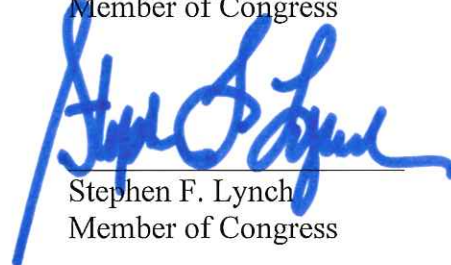
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



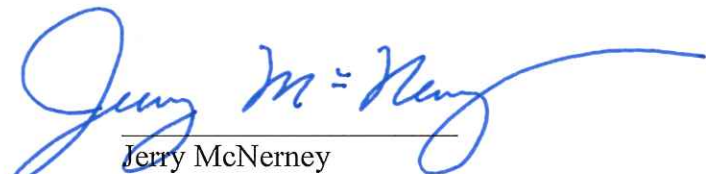
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress




Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



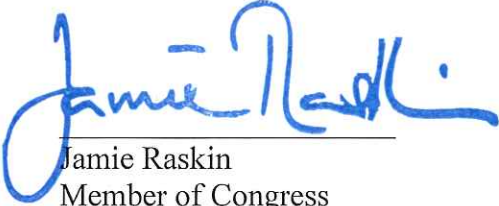
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



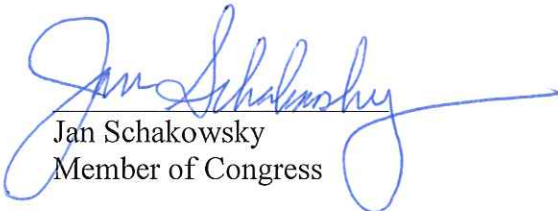
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



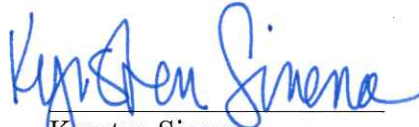
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



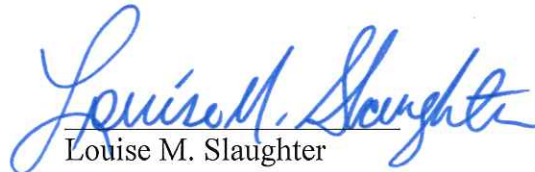
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



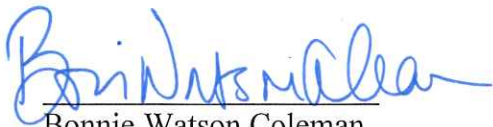
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



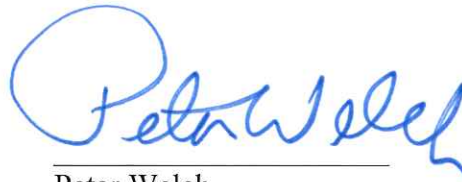
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



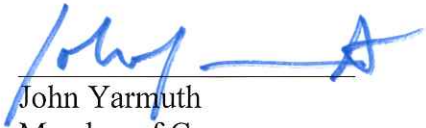
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress