

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

February 6, 2020

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our strong disapproval of your administration's proposal, the purported aim of which is to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Our concern is both with the substance of your plan, which will exacerbate and entrench conflict rather than resolve it, and with the timing of its release.

In December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Res.326 with bipartisan support. That resolution indicated Congressional opposition to unilateral annexation of the West Bank, asserted longstanding U.S. opposition to settlement expansion, and reaffirmed that any viable U.S.-proposed peace plan must include support for a two-state solution. A real two-state solution is the only conflict-ending means of securing both national self-determination for Palestinians and an Israel that is secure, democratic, and a homeland for the Jewish people.

However, the "ultimate deal" that your team has incubated for the past three years is not a serious or good faith attempt to bring such a durable peace between the parties to this conflict. Of utmost concern, your proposal effectively paves the way for permanent occupation of the West Bank. It endorses unilateral annexation of Israeli settlements, as well as the Jordan Valley. While your proposal uses the language of statehood for Palestinians, it provides for far less than an actual, viable state. A collection of disconnected Palestinian enclaves – surrounded by settlements and settlement infrastructure annexed by Israel, and still under Israeli control – does not constitute statehood. Crafted by a team that has long indicated its animosity to actual Palestinian statehood, your proposal attempts to make a genuine two-state solution impossible.

We are deeply concerned that your administration developed a proposal without consulting Palestinians and that no Palestinian leadership could plausibly accept. It could result in renewed violence in Israel and across the occupied territories. It may destabilize Jordan, a vital U.S. ally, and endanger Israel's peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt. It also will likely deepen animosity toward the United States throughout the broader Middle East.

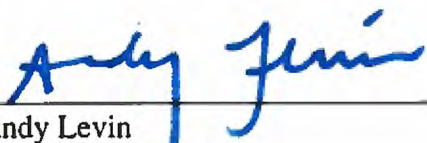
In addition to the highly problematic nature of your proposal, the timing of its release suggests motives unrelated to helping solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Coming just over a month before Israel's third election in a year – against the backdrop of Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's indictments – releasing the plan now appears to be an inappropriate intervention in a foreign election.

A U.S. proposal that promotes unilateral annexation and jettisons a real two-state solution is bad for Israel, for the shared values that have historically undergirded the U.S.-Israel relationship, and for the bipartisan consensus in the U.S. on the importance of that relationship, which Israel has long understood to be a crucial strategic asset.

Your plan will hurt Israelis and Palestinians alike, pushing them toward further conflict. It does not have our support, and the Israeli government must not take it as license to violate international law by annexing all or portions of the West Bank.

Sincerely,



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



James McGovern  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

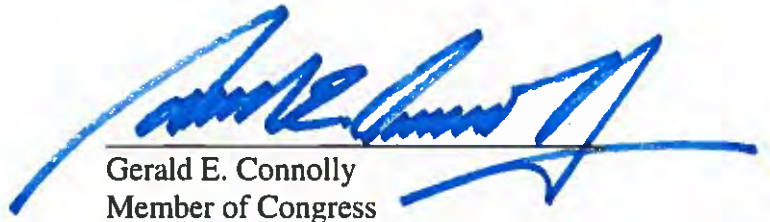


Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



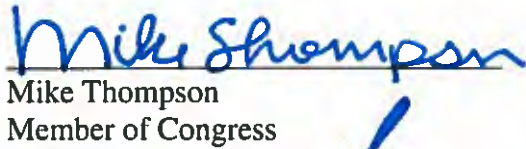
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



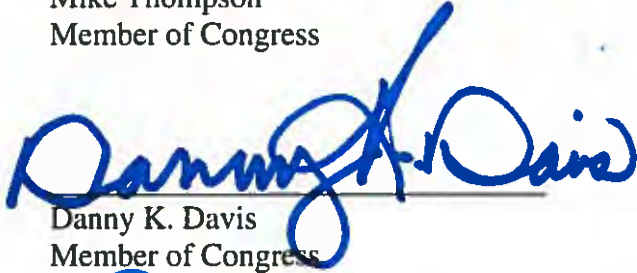
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



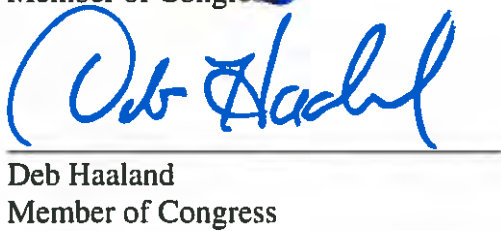
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



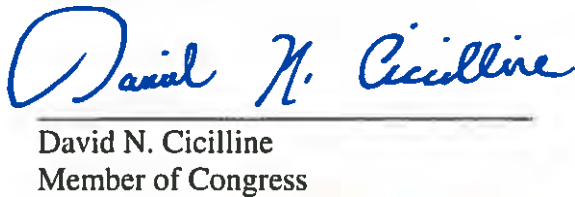
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Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



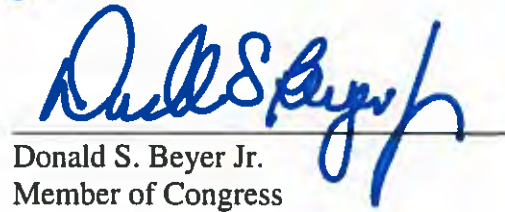
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



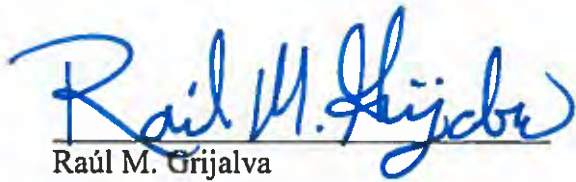
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



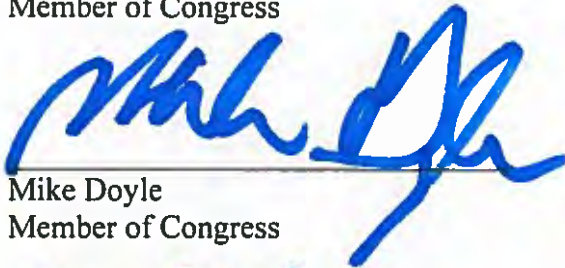
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress



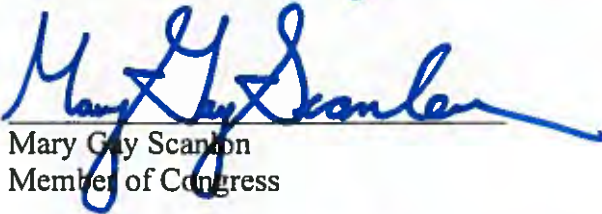
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



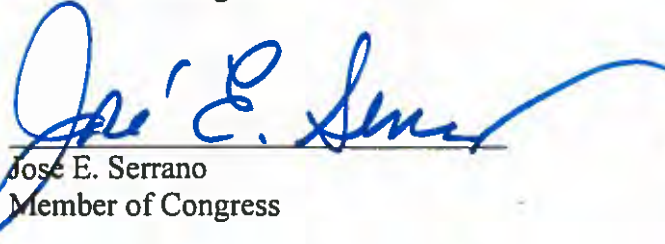
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia  
Member of Congress



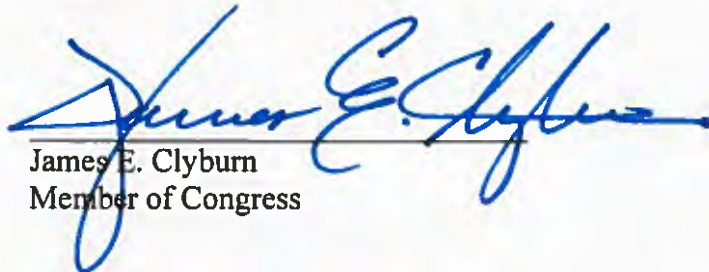
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



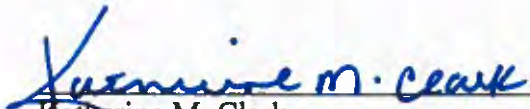
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



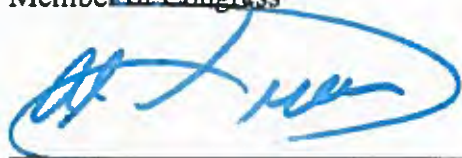
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



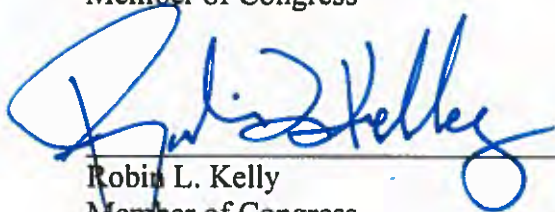
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



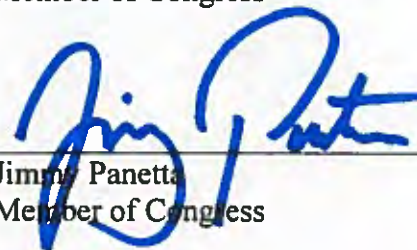
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



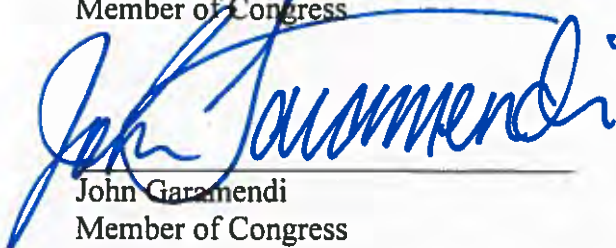
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



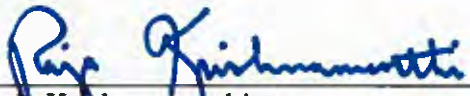
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



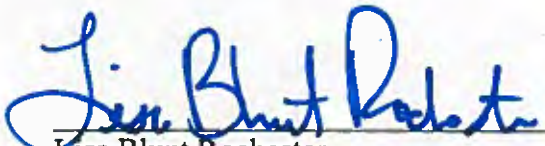
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Raj Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



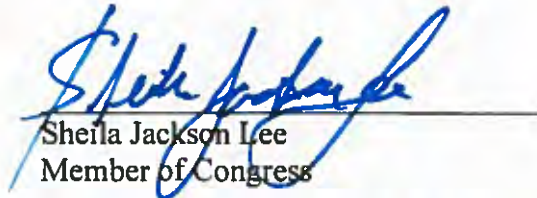
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



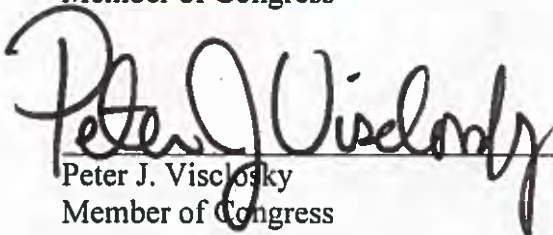
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



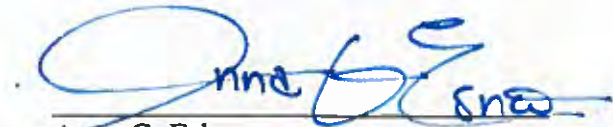
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress



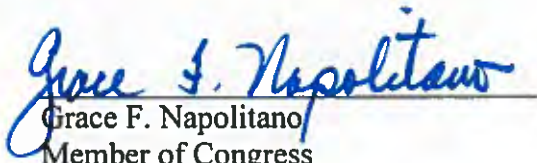
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



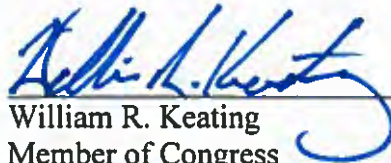
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



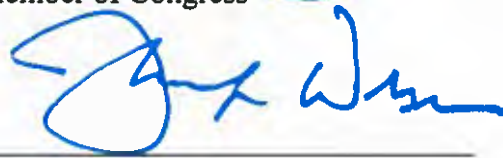
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



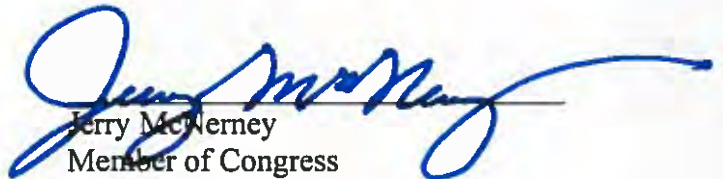
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



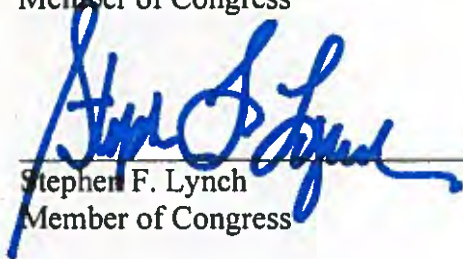
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



*Ron Kind*

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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress