

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

We are writing to express serious concerns regarding proposals to eliminate or cap the deduction on tax-exempt municipal bonds in the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal.

For more than a century, municipal bonds have enjoyed tax-exempt status and have been the primary method by which state governments and local municipalities finance public capital improvements and infrastructure construction. These projects are engines of job creation and economic growth, and it is imperative that their tax-exempt status remain unchanged.

Over the last decade, municipal bonds have funded more than \$1.9 trillion worth of infrastructure construction. This financing went to the construction of schools, hospitals, airports, affordable housing, water and sewer facilities, public power utilities, roads and public transit. In 2013 alone, more than 11,000 tax-exempt bonds financed more than \$330 billion in infrastructure spending.

As you have stated before, now is the time to invest in America. Yet, the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal recently submitted to Congress proposed capping the tax deduction for municipal bonds at 28 percent. Eliminating or capping the current deduction on municipal bonds would severely curtail state and local governments' ability to invest in themselves. It would increase borrowing costs to public entities and shift costs to local residents through tax or rate increases.

Moreover, eliminating or capping the current deduction on municipal bonds would slow the growth of job-creating infrastructure projects. In these tenuous economic times, it would be irresponsible to jeopardize funding for the dedicated citizens who work in these important facilities such as teachers, firefighters, police officers, hospital workers and librarians as well as the construction workers who build them.

As the discussion on various budget proposals continues and the national discussion on comprehensive tax reform begins, it is our hope that you will reject proposals to alter the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. While we agree that we must reduce government spending and our country's unsustainable debt, we should not be eliminating a vital tool for job growth and economic development. Thank you for your time and attention to this important national matter.

Sincerely,



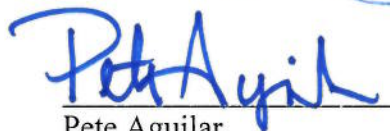
C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Ralph Lee Abraham
Member of Congress



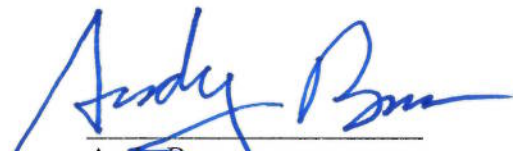
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



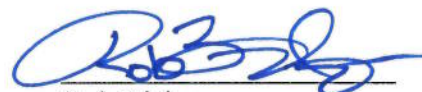
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



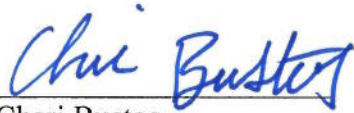
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



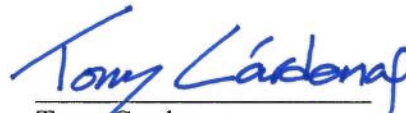
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Earl L. Carter
Member of Congress



John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



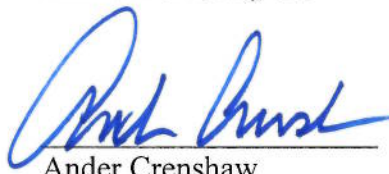
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



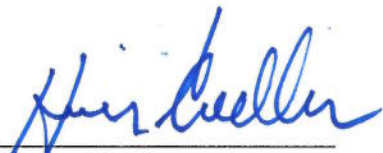
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



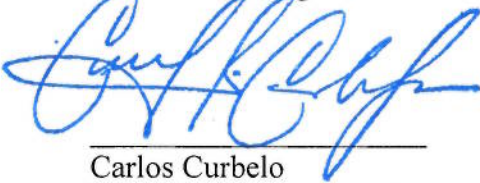
Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



John A. Culberson
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



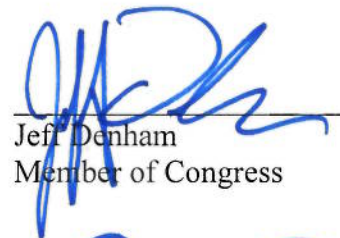
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



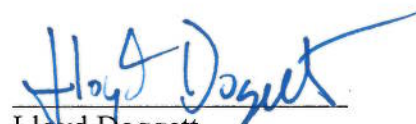
Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



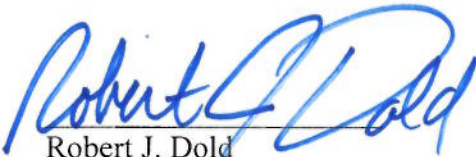
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



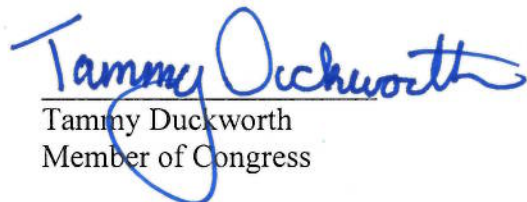
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



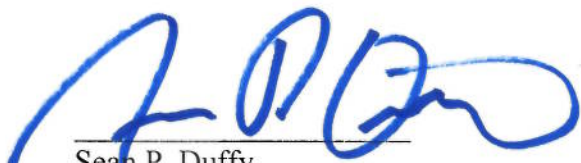
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



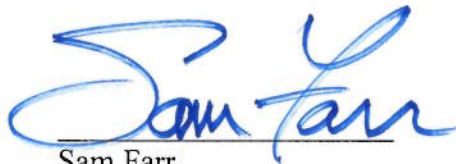
Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



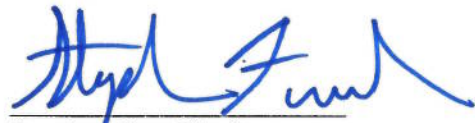
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



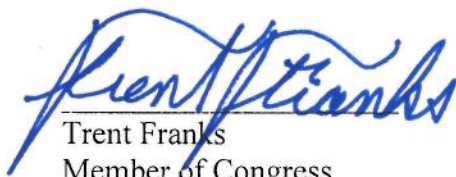
Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



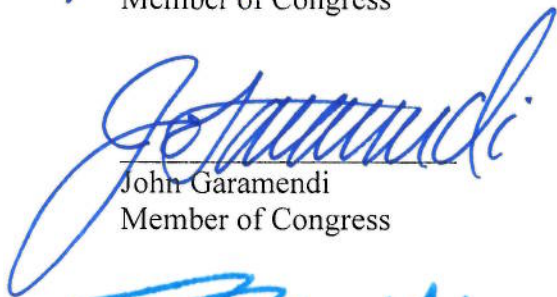
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



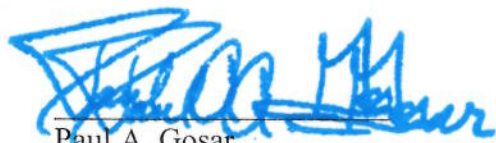
Stephen Lee Fincher
Member of Congress



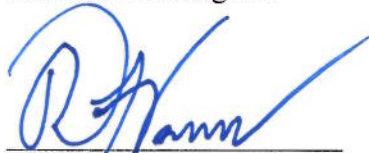
Trent Franks
Member of Congress



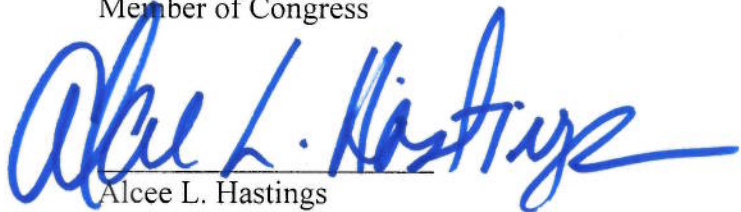
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



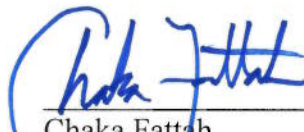
Richard L. Hanna
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



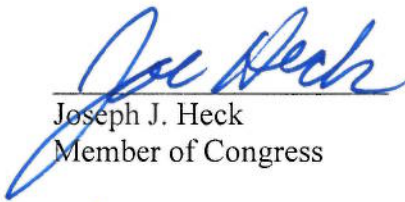
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

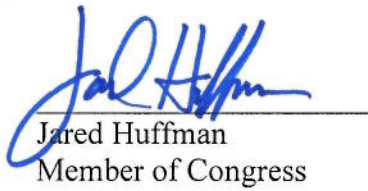


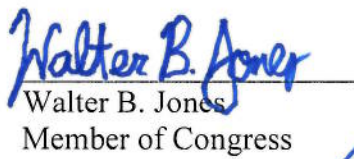
Crescent Hardy
Member of Congress

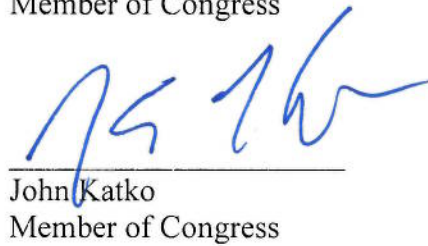


Denny Heck
Member of Congress

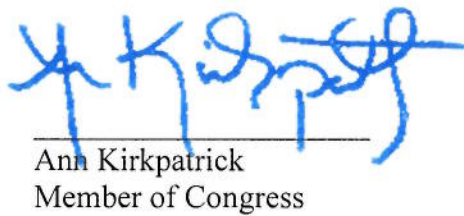

Joseph J. Heck
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

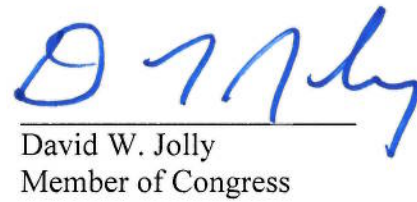

John Katko
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress

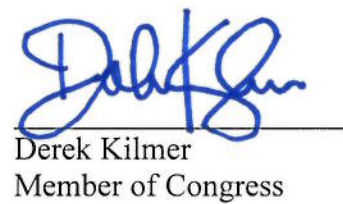

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

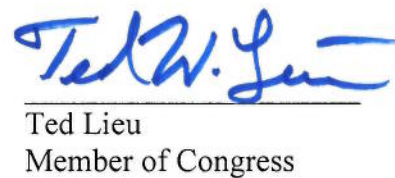

David W. Jolly
Member of Congress


David P. Joyce
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

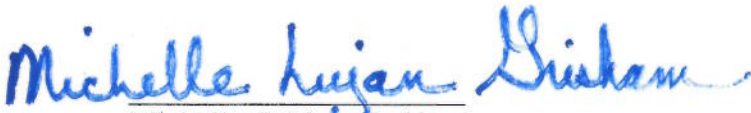

Steve King
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

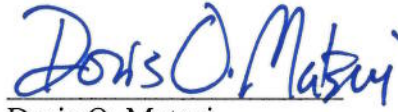

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress

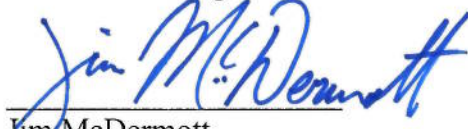

Michelle Grisham Luján
Member of Congress

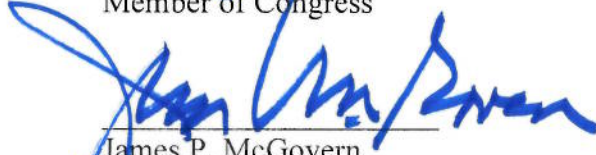

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

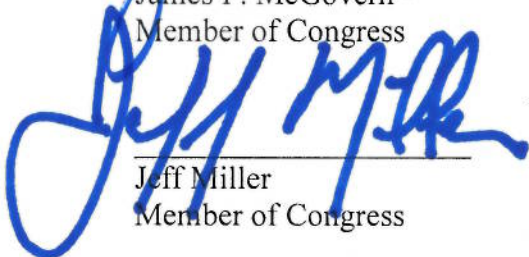

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

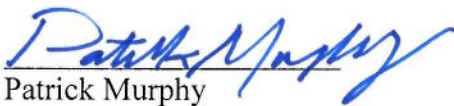

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

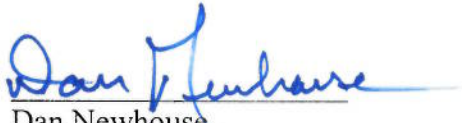

Luke Messer
Member of Congress

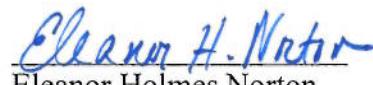

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

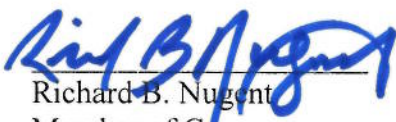

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

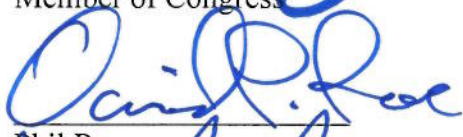

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

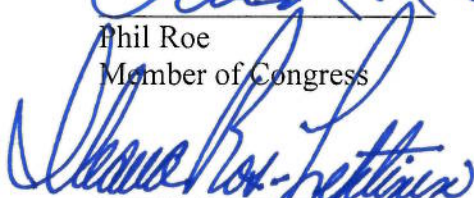

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Richard B. Nugent
Member of Congress

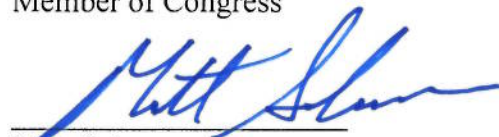

Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress

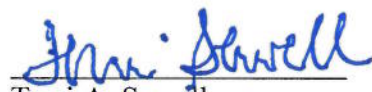

Bill Posey
Member of Congress


Phil Roe
Member of Congress


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress


David Rouzer
Member of Congress

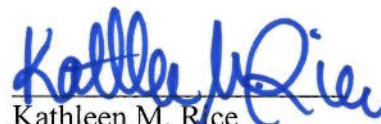

Matt Salmon
Member of Congress

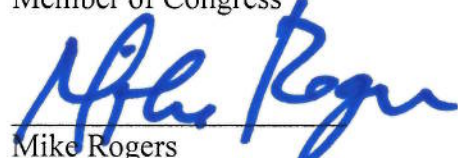

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

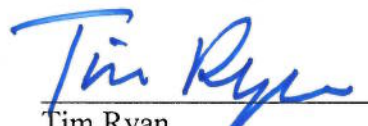

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

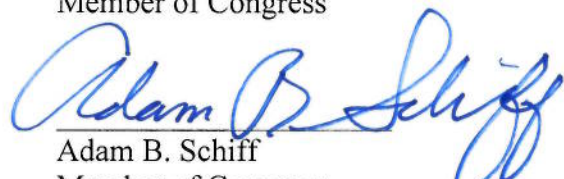

Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

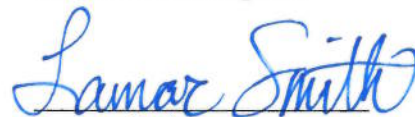

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress


Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

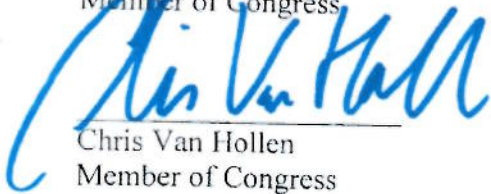

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



David A. Trott
Member of Congress



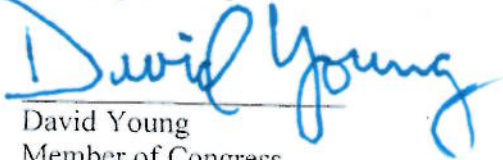
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



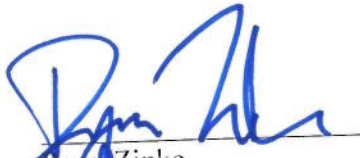
David Young
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



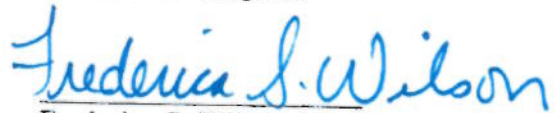
Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



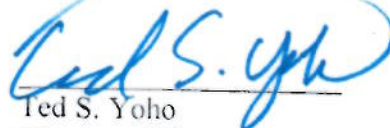
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



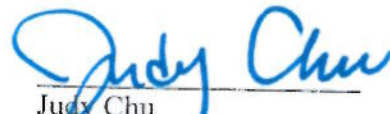
Steve Womack
Member of Congress



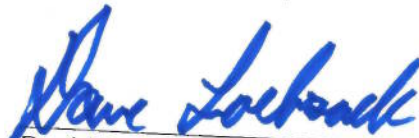
Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress



Lee M. Zeldin
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress