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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515-6015

January 25, 2017

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NANCY FOX  
CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE:  
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Hon. Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building

Dear Speaker Ryan:

At a time when public trust and confidence in government is perilously low, it is more important than ever to ensure federal officials comport themselves with unimpeachable ethics and are free of personal conflicts of interest in their public responsibilities.

That is why we are extremely concerned by the prospect of members of President Trump's Administration conducting official business prior to coming into full compliance with Ethics Agreements with the Office of Government Ethics.

In the coming weeks, the Appropriations Committee will be holding hearings on FY2018 federal spending, as well as writing a FY2017 Appropriations package, given the failure of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress to complete this work before the end of 2016. The Administration will make its views and preferences known to Congress about myriad funding levels and policy issues. It appears highly likely that by this time, many Cabinet Secretaries and leaders of other federal agencies will not have been confirmed by the Senate, and will not be in full compliance with Ethics Agreements on file with the Office of Government Ethics.

We offered an amendment to the House Appropriations Committee rules package yesterday, requiring Cabinet Secretaries and Department heads testifying before the Committee to provide written certification of having filed a Public Financial Disclosure Report with the Office of Government Ethics, and of coming into full compliance with all Ethics Agreements on file. This is important to assure American citizens and their representatives that the views expressed by the Administration are not unduly influenced by private financial interests. It is extremely disappointing that the majority voted down this commonsense effort.

This comes on the heels of the Republican majority's attempt to gut the Office of Congressional Ethics and threats to subpoena the head of the Office of Government Ethics for criticizing President Trump's failure to divest from corporate ownership interests, liquidate business assets, and place them in a blind trust. We are extremely concerned that through these

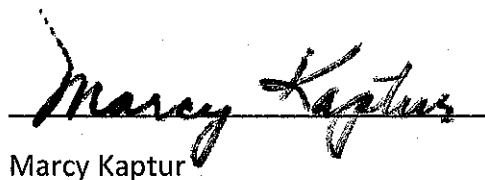
actions, both the Congressional majority and the President are sending the signal that ethics and honesty do not matter. They do matter.

We urge you to take immediate steps to ensure the House of Representatives does not provide a forum for members of the Trump Administration to take official actions unduly influenced by private financial interests.

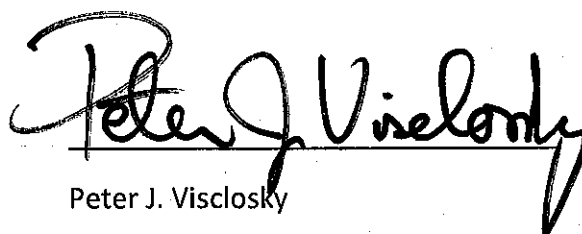
Sincerely,



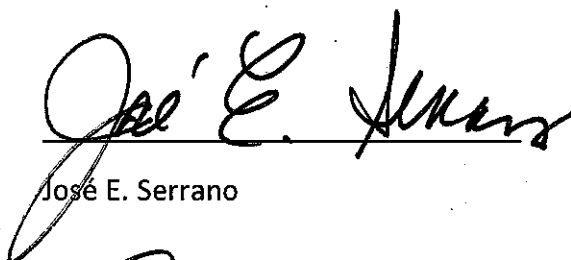
Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations



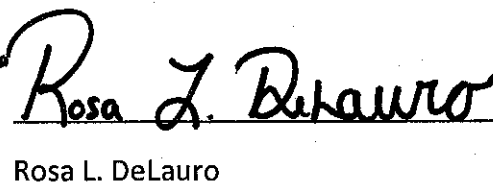
Marcy Kaptur



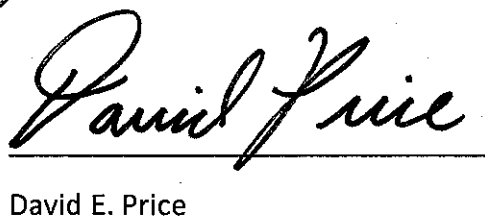
Peter J. Visclosky



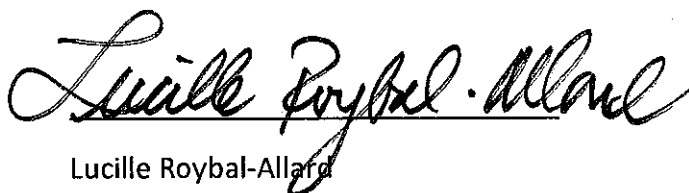
José E. Serrano



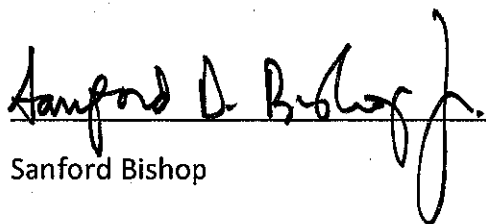
Rosa L. DeLauro



David E. Price



Lucille Roybal-Allard

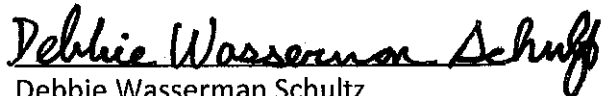


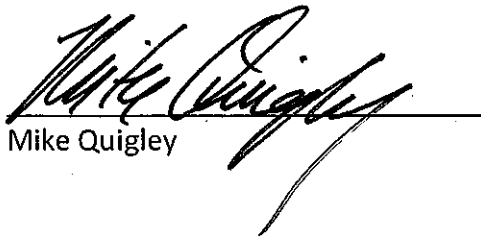
Sanford Bishop



Betty McCollum

  
Tim Ryan

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz

  
Mike Quigley

cc: Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)