

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2013

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Minority Leader Pelosi, Minority Whip Hoyer, Chairman Lucas, and Ranking Member Peterson:

We oppose the de-coupling of the agriculture and nutrition titles in H.R. 2642, the "Farm only" Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act, but there is another policy related to the agricultural provisions that has our support – conservation compliance. Should the House and Senate conference on a Farm Bill, any final conference agreement should contain conservation compliance language similar to what is currently in S. 954, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013.

As a result of conservation compliance measures Congress enacted in 1985, farmers have adopted basic land management practices to reduce soil erosion and protect wetlands in exchange for farm program benefits. As a result of these measures, soil erosion has been reduced by 40 percent on over 140 million acres of farmland. Agricultural productivity has increased, drinking water and important habitat have been protected, and water quality has improved. Through conservation compliance, we've improved our water quality and drinking water supplies and protected important habitat. Conservation compliance has contributed to a more sustainable agriculture system and benefited farmers, consumers and the environment. These successes should be continued.

High land prices, driven by strong demand for our commodities, are boosting farm income and putting significant pressure on our land and water resources. This makes the current conservation compliance provisions all the more important. As agricultural policy shifts from a system of direct payments to a system of crop insurance and risk management, conservation compliance must be included in all agricultural income support programs, including crop insurance.

The Senate extended conservation compliance to their crop insurance and revenue support programs, and there is significant support for such provisions in the House. We urge you to include conservation compliance in any eventual conference report.

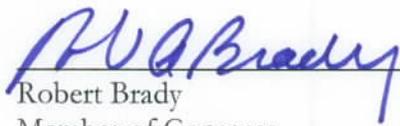
Sincerely,



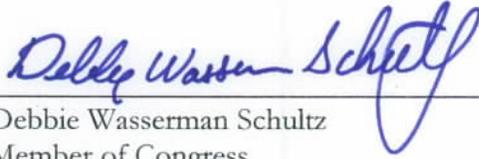
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



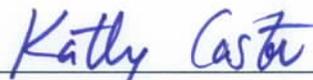
Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



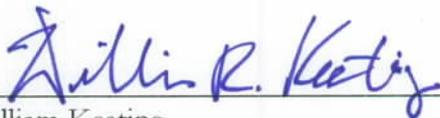
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



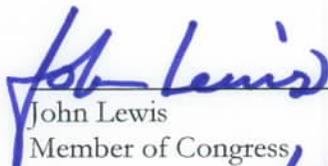
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



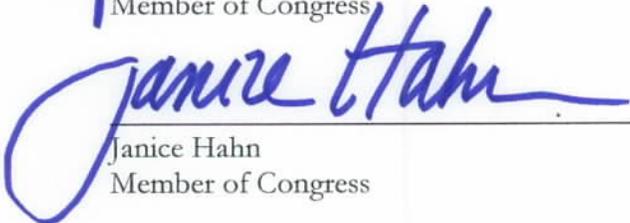
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



William Keating
Member of Congress



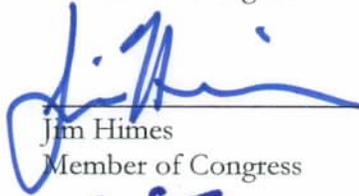
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



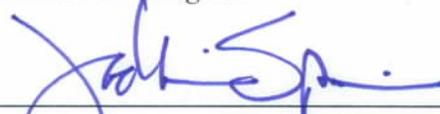
Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



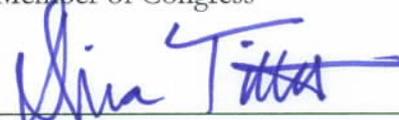
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



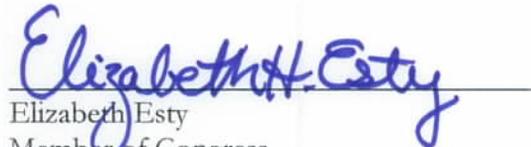
Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

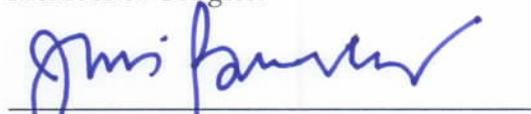

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

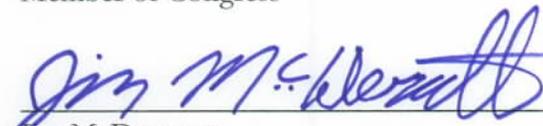

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

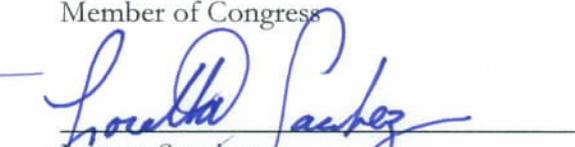

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

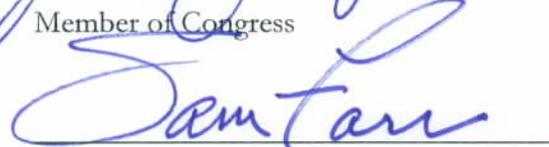

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Ted E. Deutch
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

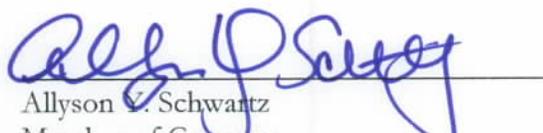

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Robert "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress


Allyson V. Schwartz
Member of Congress


Sander Levin
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


John Carney
Member of Congress



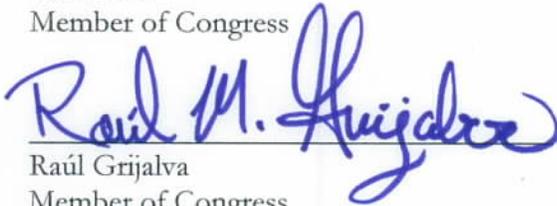
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



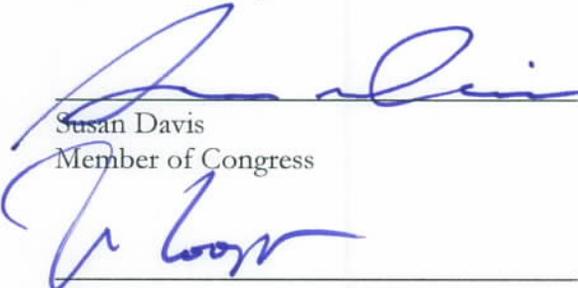
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



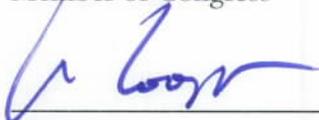
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



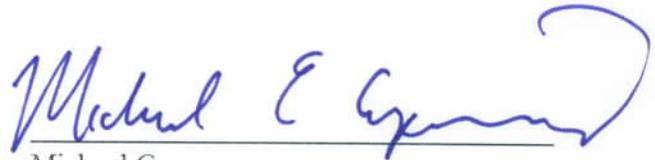
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



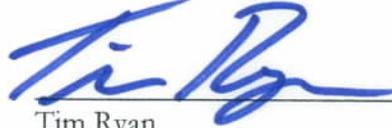
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



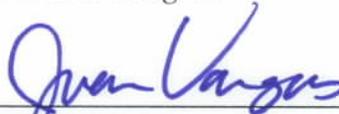
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



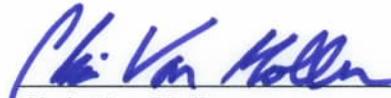
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski

Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

David Price

David Price
Member of Congress

George Miller

George Miller
Member of Congress

Moxine Waters

Moxine Waters
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Jim Matheson

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

Lois Capps

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

John Tierney

John Tierney
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



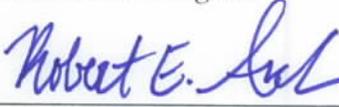
James Moran
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



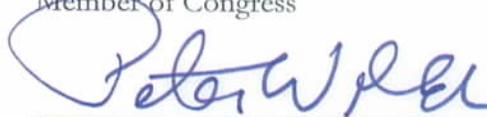
Rob Andrews
Member of Congress



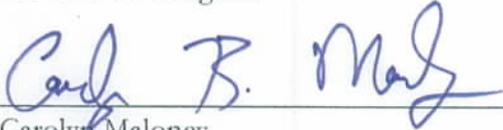
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



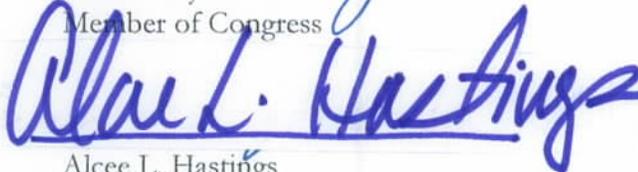
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



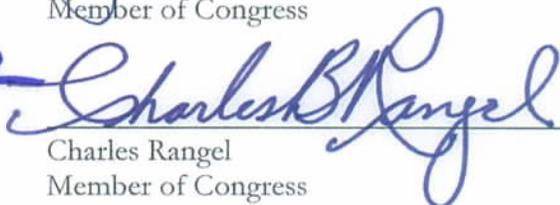
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



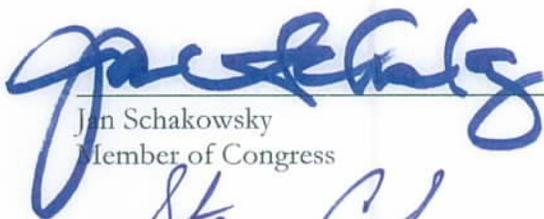
Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



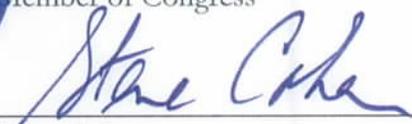
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Jen Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Linda J. Sanchez

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

John Conyers

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Steve Israel

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Bennie Thompson

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Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Tim Bishop

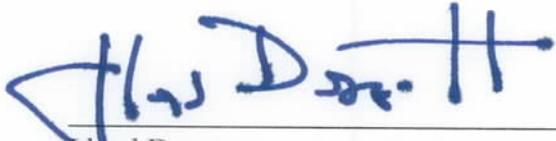
Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

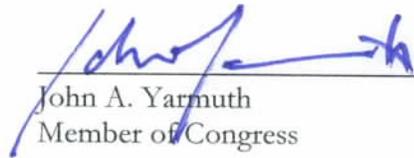
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Patrick E. Murphy

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

CC: Senator Stabenow, Senator Cochran