

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

June 2, 2011

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

Dear President Obama:

We write to offer our support for the general policy put forth in your draft executive order "Disclosure of Political Spending by Government Contractors" dated April 13, 2011. As supporters of greater disclosure of political contributions, we believe it is both justifiable and beneficial for the public to have access to information regarding the political involvement of federal contractors.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's January 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, companies are allowed to spend unlimited sums on independent expenditures in election campaigns. Absent public disclosure, there will certainly be some contractors who would seek to influence the awarding of contracts through unreported political contributions. By requiring contractors to disclose such contributions, you will help to prevent the temptation to engage in inappropriate and illegal behavior.

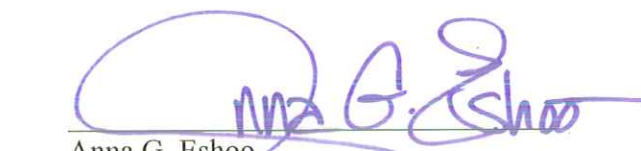
Taxpayers are ultimately the ones financing government contracts. It is therefore entirely appropriate that they be able to see how companies earning taxpayer money through federal contracts spend any part of those earnings on influencing politicians. Political contributions should not be able to affect the awarding of federal contracts, and the best way to guard against this is through disclosure of contributions and any possible conflicts of interest.

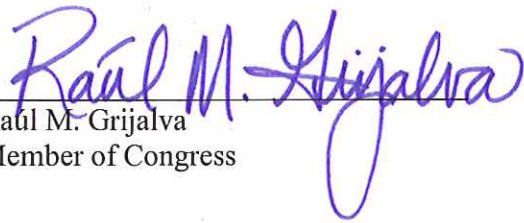
The disclosure set forth in your draft executive order clearly should not serve to either advantage or disadvantage any one firm. In fact, every effort should be made to insure that acquisition professionals do not consider the disclosure information as part of the procurement process.

We encourage you to move forward with measures to promote greater disclosure of political contributions, and specifically to finalize the draft executive order on government contractors.

Sincerely,

  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

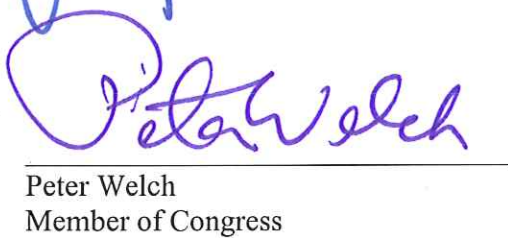
  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

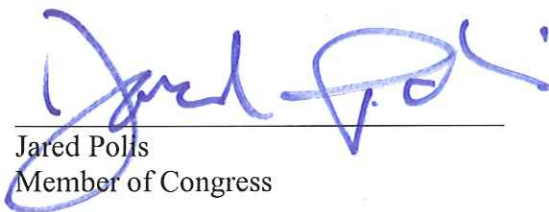
  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

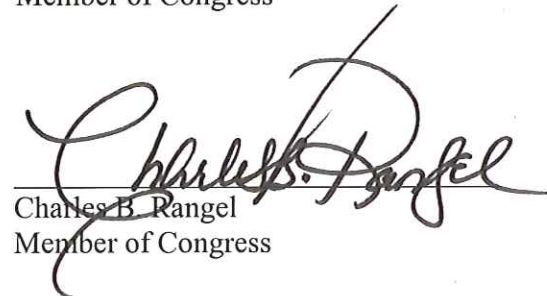
  
Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress

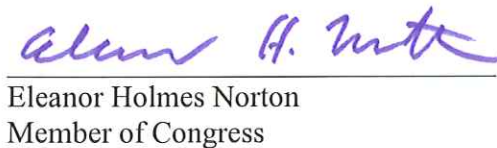
  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

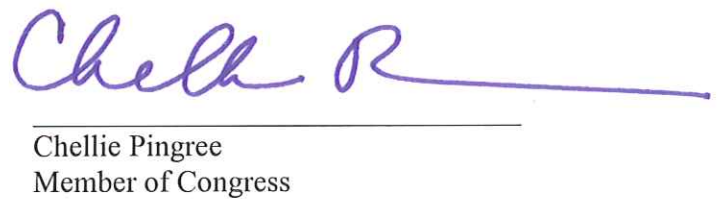
  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

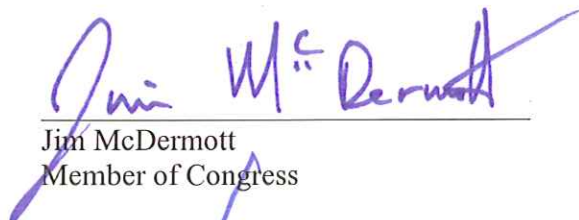
  
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

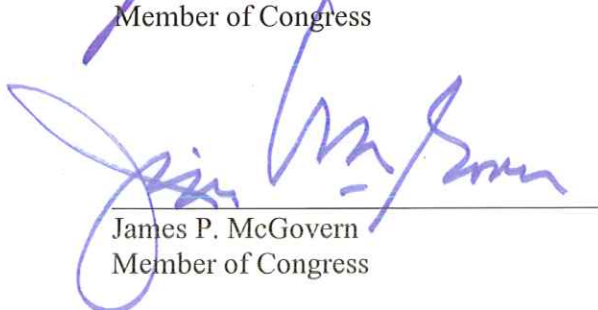
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

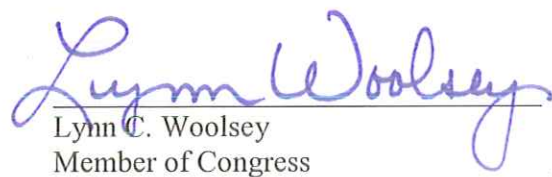
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



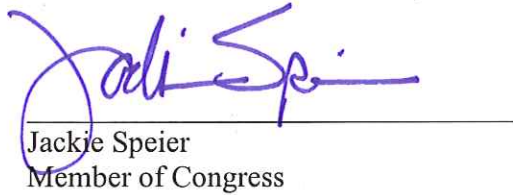
---

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



---

Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



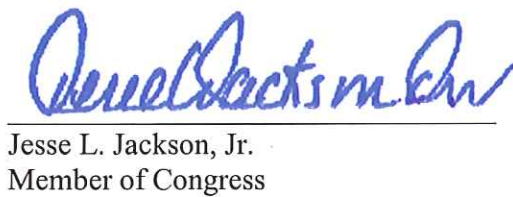
---

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



---

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



---

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



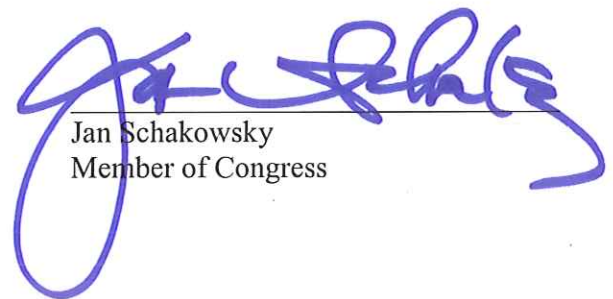
---

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



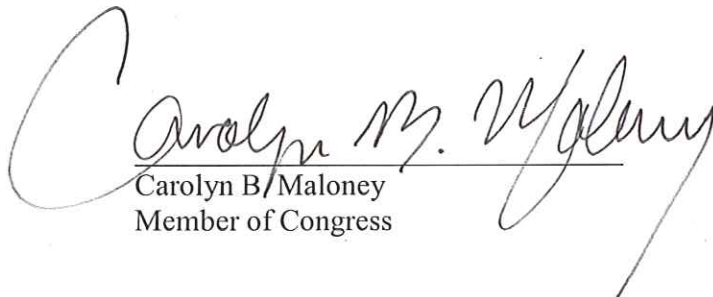
---

Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



---

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress