

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

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Room HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting life-saving programs to remove ordnance, mines, and other explosive remnants of war left on battlefields around the world. We write to respectfully request that the Committee support \$290,000,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) programs within the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) account at the U.S. Department of State. Over the past several years, we have been pleased to see strong support for CWD programs from Congress. However, additional resources are needed for valuable global humanitarian demining and weapons security programs. Underfunding these life-saving programs could jeopardize the goal of eliminating U.S. legacy ordnance in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia and slow progress toward creating a mine-free Sri Lanka, Angola, and Zimbabwe. Additional demining funds are also needed to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Ukraine already contained significant landmine and explosive contamination in the eastern region prior to Russia's further invasion in February 2022. Now, the country is faced with a large number of landmines and unexploded bombs in major population centers that will threaten civilians for years to come. The risk will be particularly acute as displaced civilians return to areas previously occupied by Russia and seek to rebuild their lives. Increased funding is urgently needed to enable the elimination of these deadly devices as soon as possible.

Since the end of Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war in 2009, U.S. demining assistance has been critical to allowing thousands of displaced families to return to their homes and develop their land. U.S. demining efforts have also enabled the reopening of schools and hospitals, the reconstruction of thousands of homes, and the reconstruction of the Jaffna railway – enabling access to Sri Lanka's northern ports. More than 273,000 mines have already been destroyed, and increased funding will keep Sri Lanka on track to be mine-impact free in the near future.

Landmines in Angola have injured more than 80,000 people since they were used in its civil war between 1975 and 2002, but with the help of U.S. foreign assistance, over 108,000 landmines have been destroyed. Continued destruction of these lethal hazards in Angola enables local economic development, particularly in the Okavango Delta region where the U.S. is working with the Angolan government to establish an eco-tourism industry.

Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia remain heavily impacted by U.S. legacy cluster bombs and other explosive hazards. Laos is the most heavily bombed country in history and has suffered an estimated 50,000 casualties from explosive remnants of war. Cambodia, which contains additional significant landmine contamination, has suffered over 65,000 casualties from explosive hazards since 1964. In Vietnam, at least 105,000 casualties from explosive threats have been recorded. More resources are needed to remove this deadly detritus of war, demonstrate continued resolve for removing U.S. legacy ordnance, and strengthen diplomatic relations.

Zimbabwe is one of the most highly mine-impacted countries in the world, with dense, unfenced minefields close to houses, schools and clinics that in many cases separate communities from their only viable source of water. Increased support for demining in Zimbabwe will aid in economic development and help reach the goal of a mine-impact free Zimbabwe in the near future.

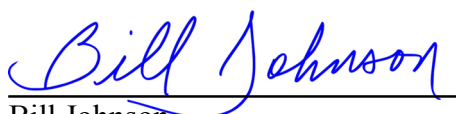
We urge the subcommittee to include the following report language for the CWD account:

*“The Committee recommendation includes \$290,000,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction programs, of which \$80,000,000 is for programs in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The Committee recommendation also includes additional funds above the prior year’s level for programs in Sri Lanka, Angola, and Zimbabwe, and continued support for demining activities in Ukraine.”*

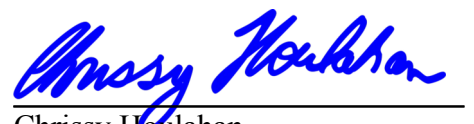
We are confident that if we maintain our commitment to demining and cluster munition removal efforts around the world – especially in Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Angola, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe – we can create a safer and more prosperous mine and cluster munition-free world.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

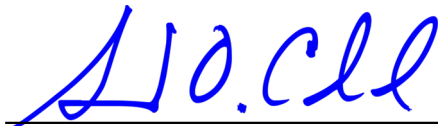
Sincerely,



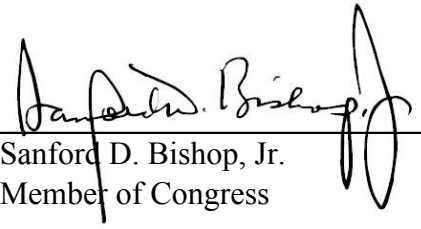
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Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
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Salud Carbajal  
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
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Jill Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Susan Wild  
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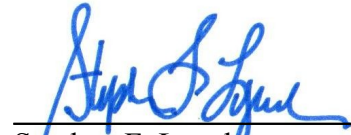
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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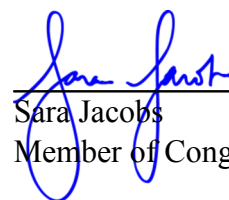
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Lucy McBath  
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Paul D. Tonko  
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Sara Jacobs  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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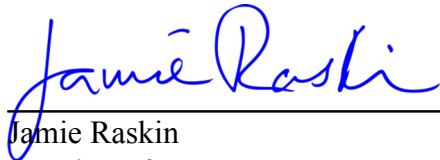
Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Colin Z. Allred  
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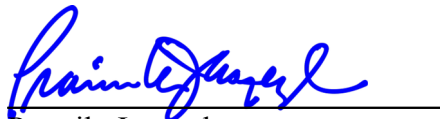
María Elvira Salazar  
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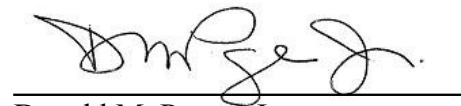
Jamie Raskin  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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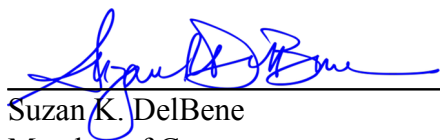
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
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Steve Cohen  
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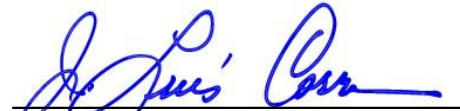
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



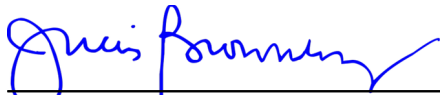
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



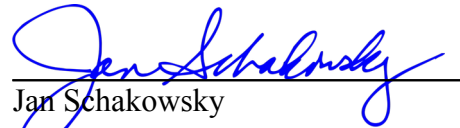
Ted W. Lieu  
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J. Luis Correa  
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Julia Brownley  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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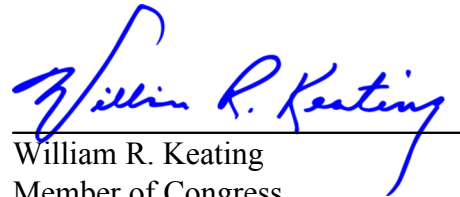
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



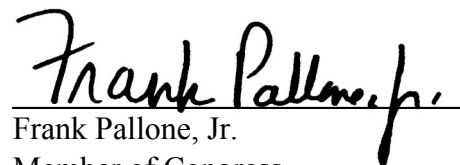
Debbie Dingell  
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William R. Keating  
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Chris Pappas  
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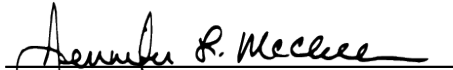
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

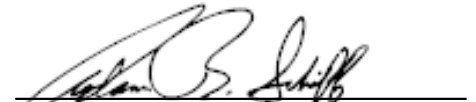



John Garamendi  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
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Ann McLane Kuster  
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Rick Larsen  
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Madeleine Dean  
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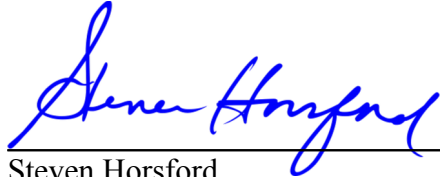
  
Tony Cardenas  
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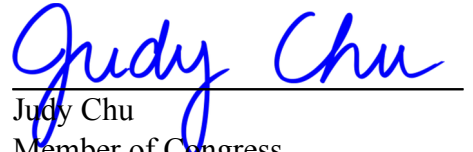
Chellie Pingree  
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Abigail Davis Spangenberg  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



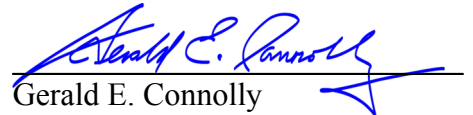
Donald Norcross  
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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



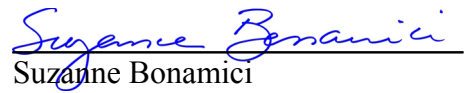
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



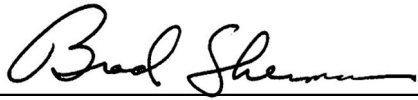
Gerald E. Connolly  
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Ruben Gallego  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



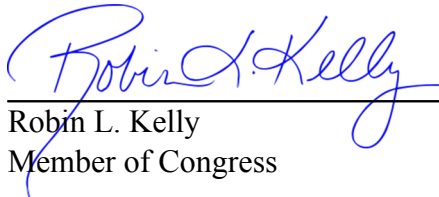
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



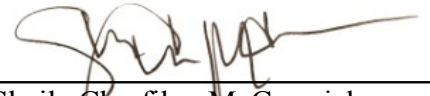
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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



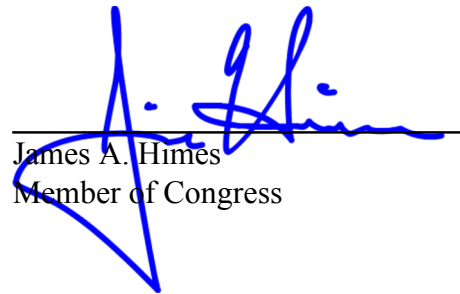
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen  
Member of Congress



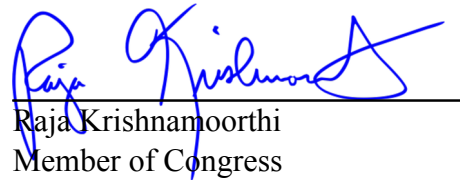
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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



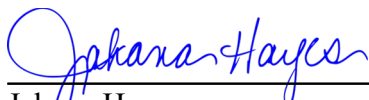
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Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



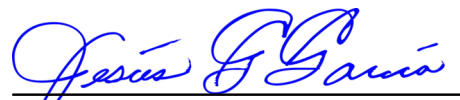
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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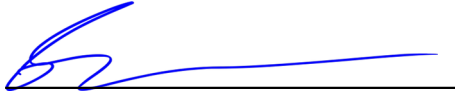
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress





Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



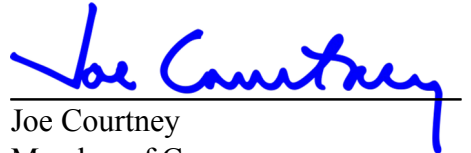
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress



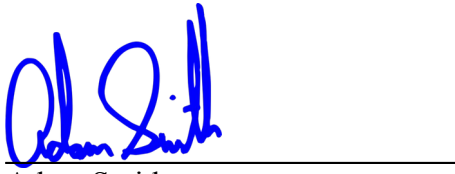
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



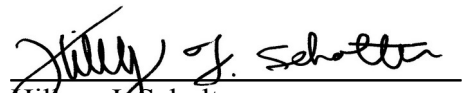
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



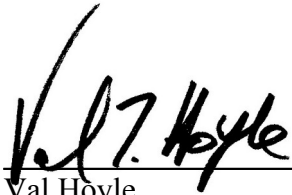
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



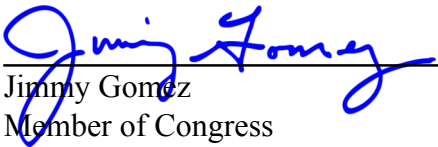
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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



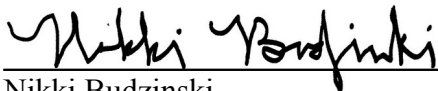
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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



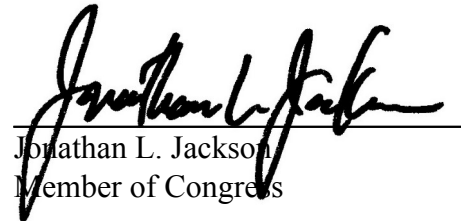
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



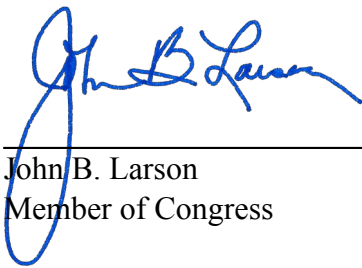
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



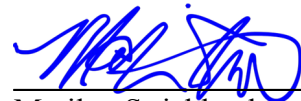
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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



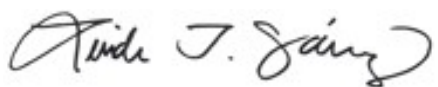
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



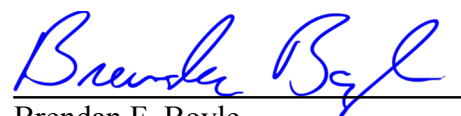
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Marilyn Strickland  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



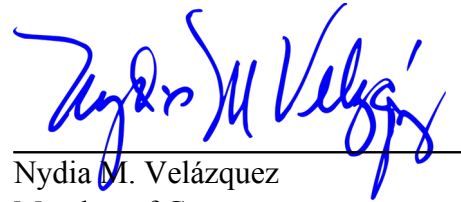
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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



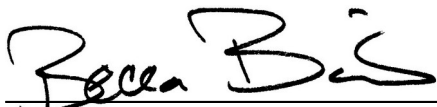
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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



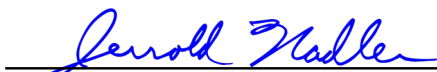
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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



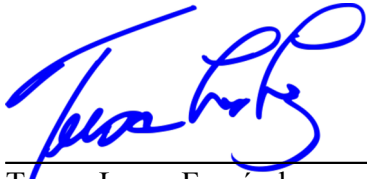
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
Member of Congress