

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 17, 2018

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

Dear Mr. President:

Improving our nation's physical infrastructure is the linchpin for growing our economy, securing our communities, and ensuring that we remain competitive globally. In addition to upgrading our bridges and roads, we must also invest in the critical infrastructure that affects every city and town in the nation – our public schools. On November 9, 2016, at a [victory rally speech in New York City](#), you said, “*We are going to fix our inner cities and rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals... and we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.*” We are eager to work with you to fulfill that promise.

Indeed, safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are essential for advancing student achievement and for ensuring that the next generation can achieve the American Dream and meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. A 2014 [Department of Education study](#) estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into “good” condition. An independent review, the *2016 State of Our Schools* report, estimates that we underfund capital investments in our school buildings by \$38 billion *per year*.

To address this crisis, the federal government should partner with states and territories to ensure that public schools in every community are safe, healthy, and modern – particularly in low-income and rural school districts where the need is often most profound. This is the right thing to do for students, teachers, and communities. It is also a smart investment, since it will give a needed boost to our economy by creating local jobs in every community across the country. According to [recent economic analysis](#), every \$1 billion dollars invested in construction creates nearly 18,000 jobs. That means a federal investment in school infrastructure of \$100 billion would yield an estimated 1.8 million jobs that are high-paying and immediately available.

Legislation has been introduced in the House that would create such a partnership, providing \$100 billion for direct grants and low-cost financing to help states and local communities upgrade their school facilities. We believe this investment is an essential piece of a national infrastructure plan and stand ready work to with you to make sure it is a feature of any comprehensive infrastructure bill that makes it to your desk.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce



PETER DEFAZIO
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



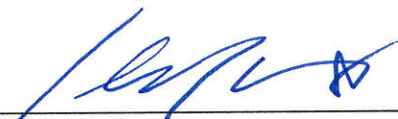
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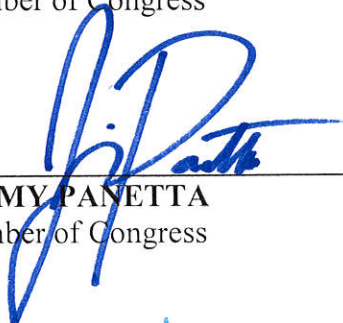
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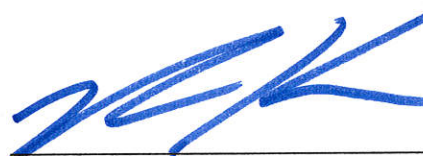
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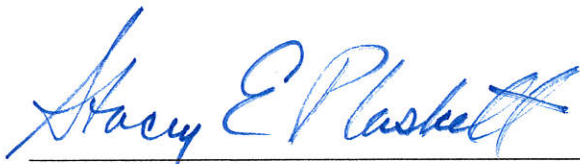
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A. DONALD MCEACHIN
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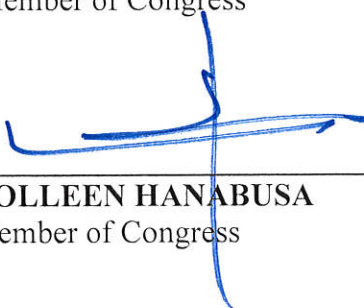
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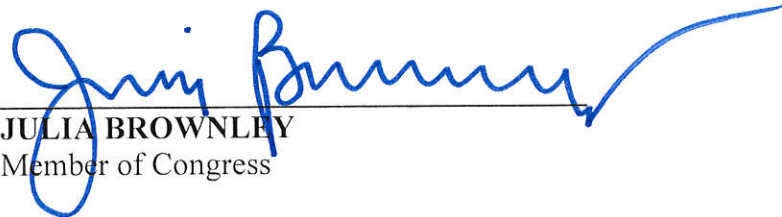
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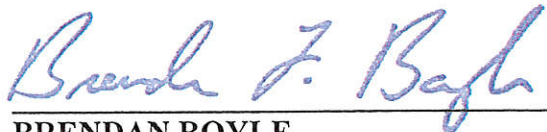
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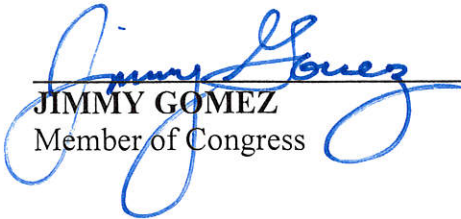
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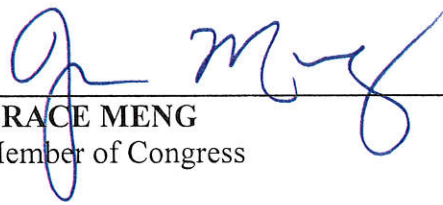
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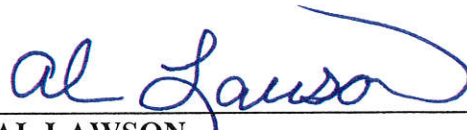
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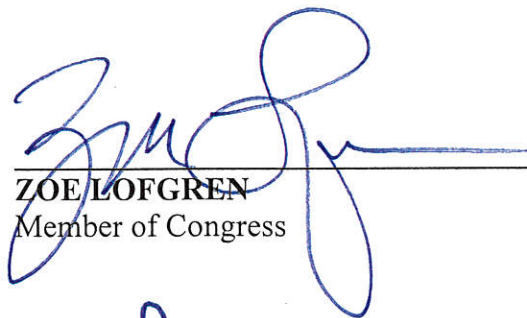
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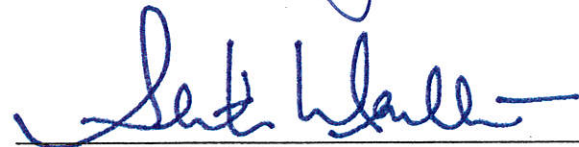
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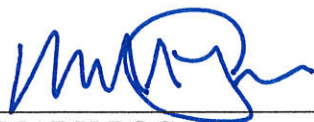
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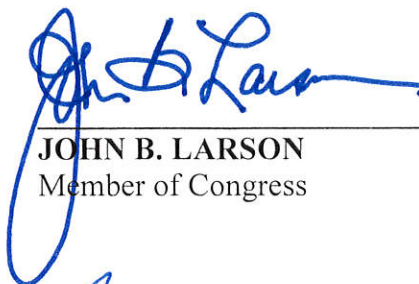
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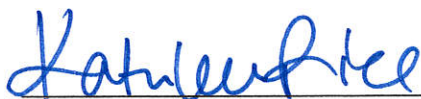
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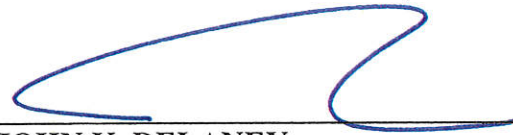
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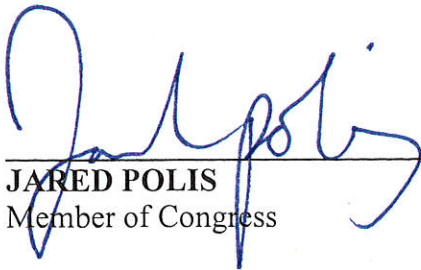
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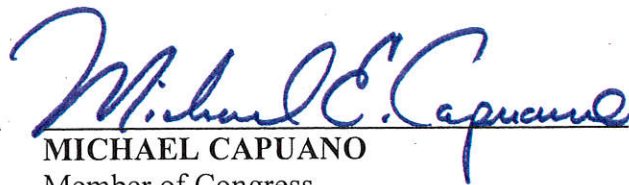
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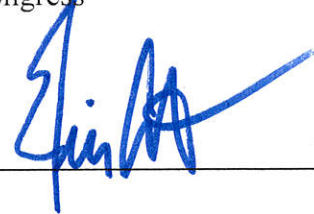
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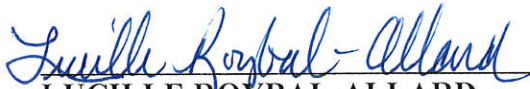
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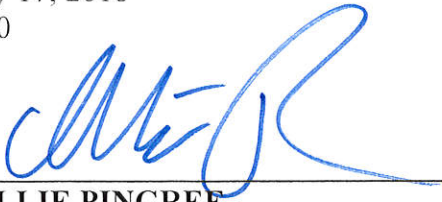
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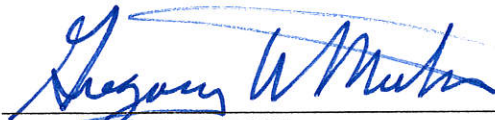
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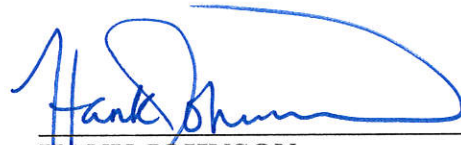
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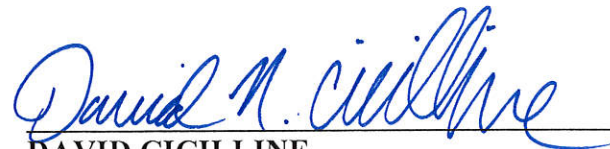
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HANK JOHNSON
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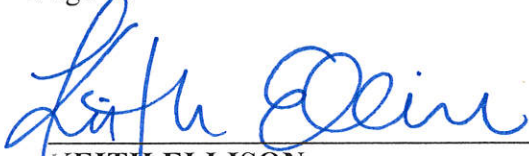
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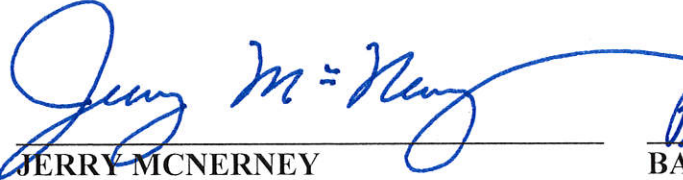
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KEITH ELLISON
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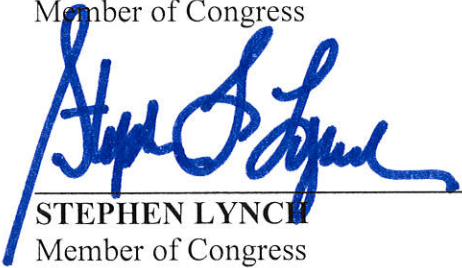
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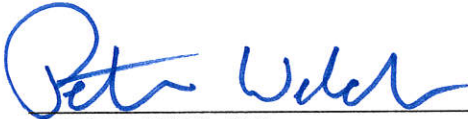
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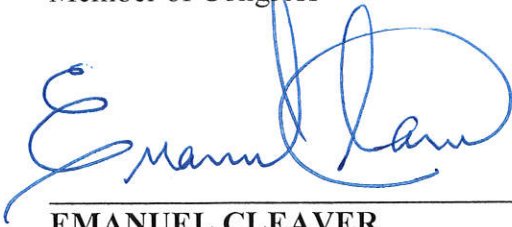
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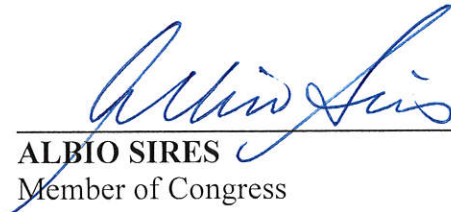
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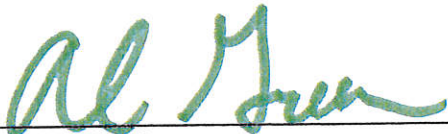
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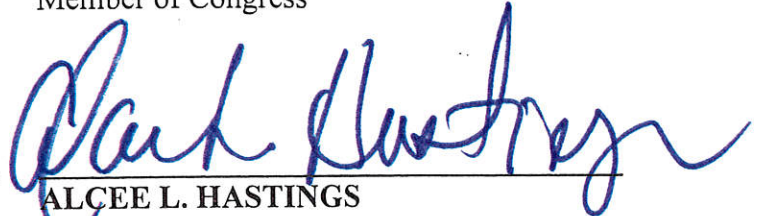
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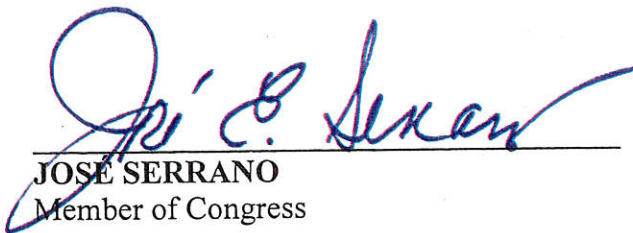
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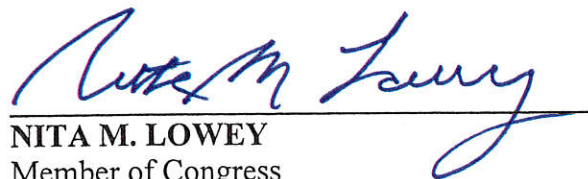
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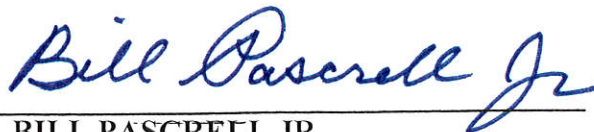
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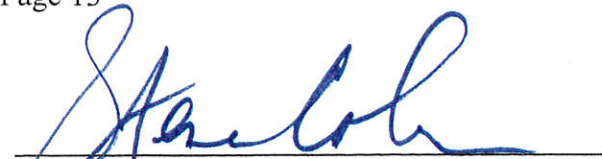
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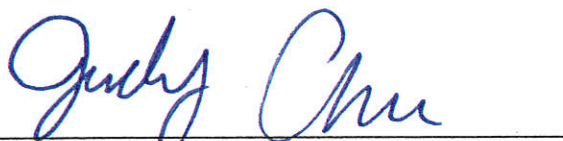
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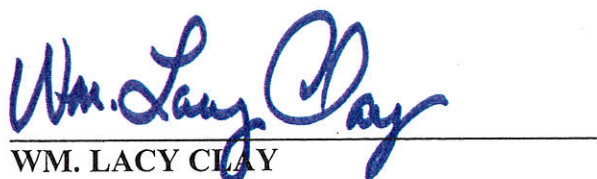
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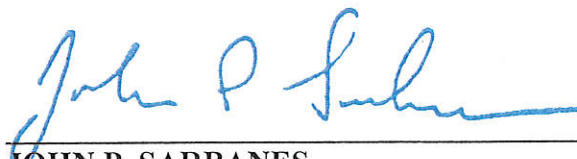
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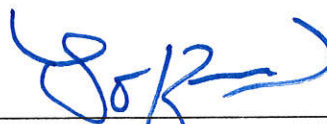
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