

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our strong disapproval of your administration's proposal, the purported aim of which is to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Our concern is both with the substance of your plan, which will exacerbate and entrench conflict rather than resolve it, and with the timing of its release.

In December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Res.326 with bipartisan support. That resolution indicated Congressional opposition to unilateral annexation of the West Bank, asserted longstanding U.S. opposition to settlement expansion, and reaffirmed that any viable U.S.-proposed peace plan must include support for a two-state solution. A real two-state solution is the only conflict-ending means of securing both national self-determination for Palestinians and an Israel that is secure, democratic, and a homeland for the Jewish people.

However, the "ultimate deal" that your team has incubated for the past three years is not a serious or good faith attempt to bring such a durable peace between the parties to this conflict. Of utmost concern, your proposal effectively paves the way for permanent occupation of the West Bank. It endorses unilateral annexation of Israeli settlements, as well as the Jordan Valley. While your proposal uses the language of statehood for Palestinians, it provides for far less than an actual, viable state. A collection of disconnected Palestinian enclaves – surrounded by settlements and settlement infrastructure annexed by Israel, and still under Israeli control – does not constitute statehood. Crafted by a team that has long indicated its animosity to actual Palestinian statehood, your proposal attempts to make a genuine two-state solution impossible.

We are deeply concerned that your administration developed a proposal without consulting Palestinians and that no Palestinian leadership could plausibly accept. It could result in renewed violence in Israel and across the occupied territories. It may destabilize Jordan, a vital U.S. ally, and endanger Israel's peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt. It also will likely deepen animosity toward the United States throughout the broader Middle East.

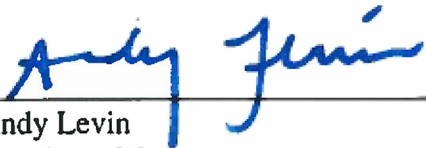
In addition to the highly problematic nature of your proposal, the timing of its release suggests motives unrelated to helping solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Coming just over a month before Israel's third election in a year – against the backdrop of Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's indictments – releasing the plan now appears to be an inappropriate intervention in a foreign election.

A U.S. proposal that promotes unilateral annexation and jettisons a real two-state solution is bad for Israel, for the shared values that have historically undergirded the U.S.-Israel relationship, and for the bipartisan consensus in the U.S. on the importance of that relationship, which Israel has long understood to be a crucial strategic asset.

Your plan will hurt Israelis and Palestinians alike, pushing them toward further conflict. It does not have our support, and the Israeli government must not take it as license to violate international law by annexing all or portions of the West Bank.

Sincerely,



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

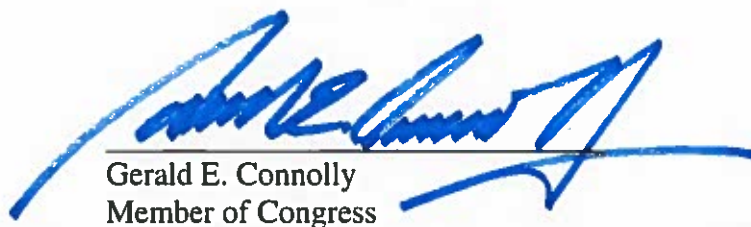


Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

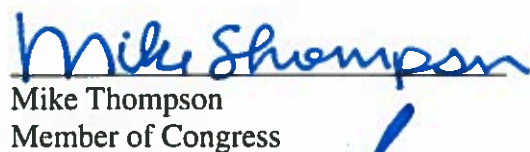

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress

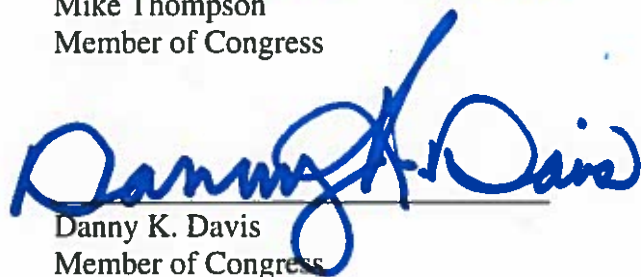

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Bill Foster
Member of Congress

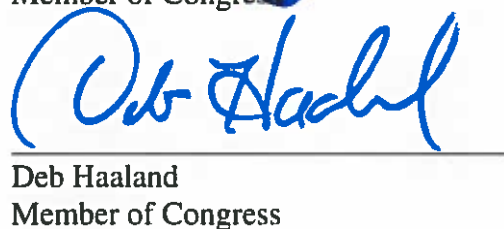

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

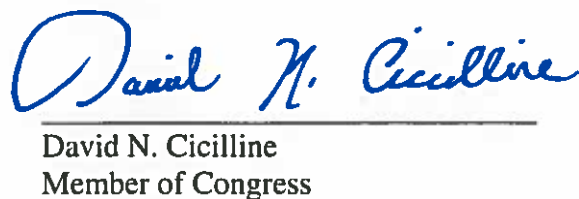

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress


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Peter DeFazio
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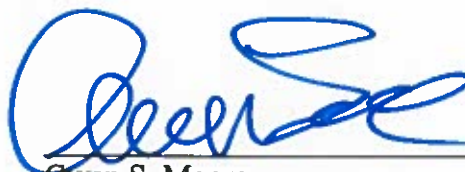

Jamie Raskin
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Gwen S. Moore
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John Yarmuth
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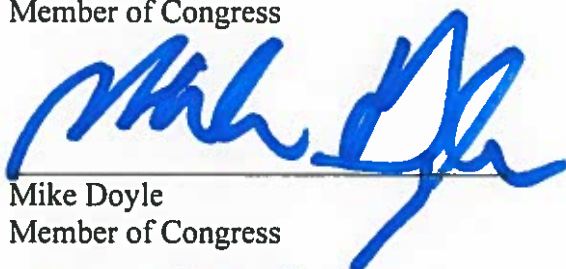
Jared Huffman
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Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



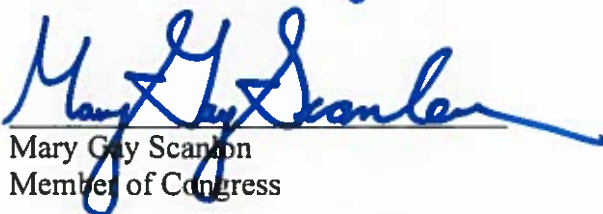
Debbie Dingell
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Mike Doyle
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Dwight Evans
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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



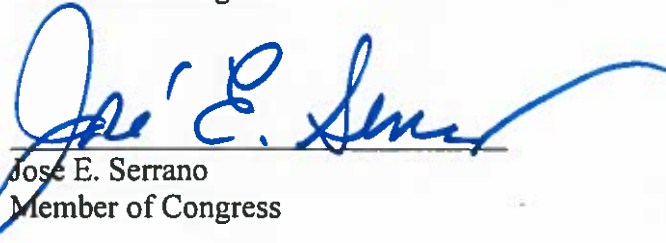
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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David E. Price
Member of Congress



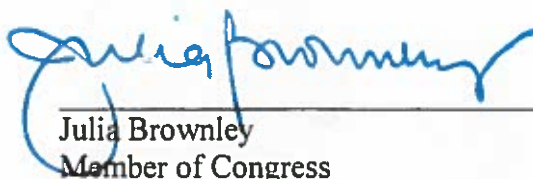
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



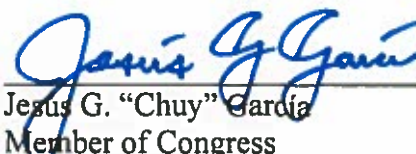
Jose E. Serrano
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Judy Chu
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Julia Brownley
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Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



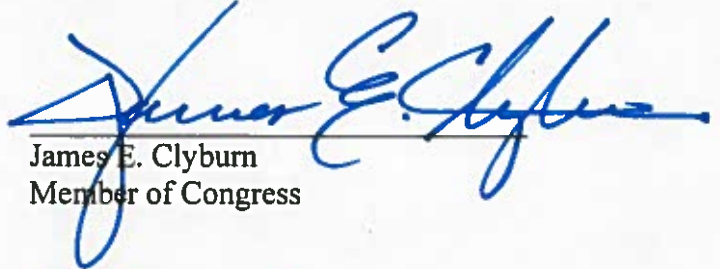
Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Karen Bass
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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James E. Clyburn
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Pramila Jayapal
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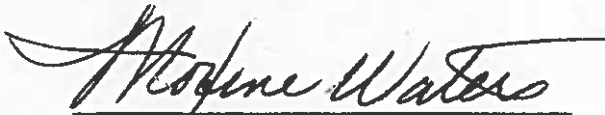
Betty McCollum
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Daniel T. Kildee
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André Carson
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Maxine Waters
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Paul D. Tonko
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Abby Finkenauer
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Lloyd Doggett
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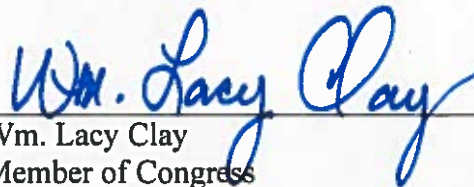
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



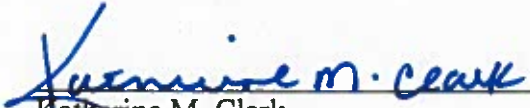
Wm. Lacy Clay
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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Veronica Escobar
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Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



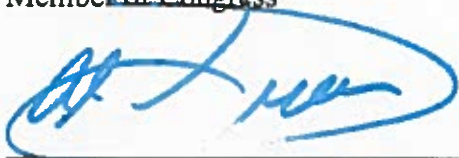
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



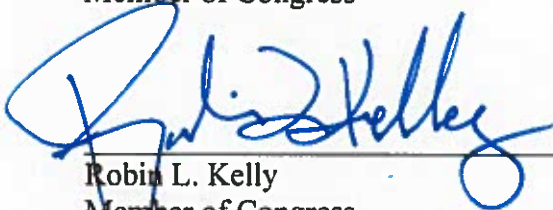
Ayanna Pressley
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Al Green
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



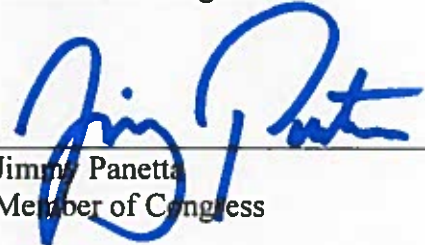
Robin L. Kelly
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Brenda L. Lawrence
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Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



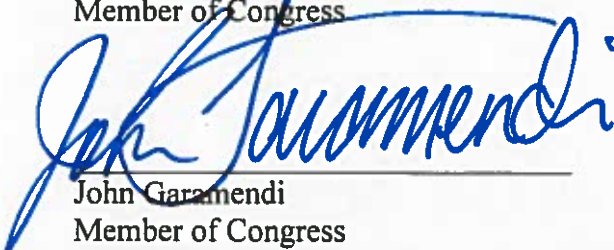
Jimmy Panetta
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Ann McLane Kuster
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Joaquin Castro
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John Garamendi
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Jahana Hayes
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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



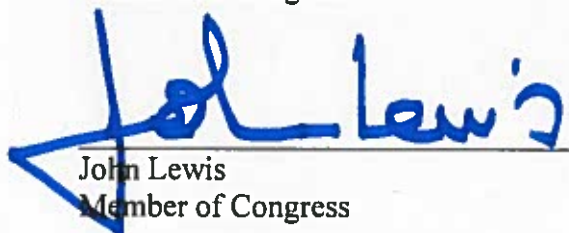
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



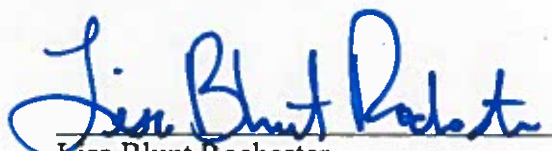
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



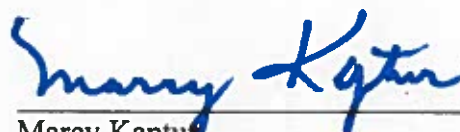
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



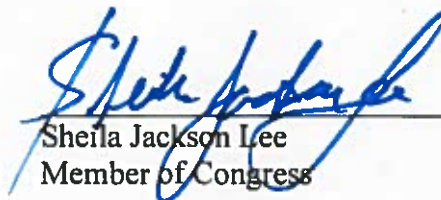
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



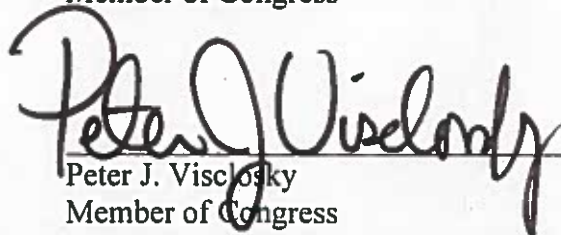
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Peter J. Visclosky
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



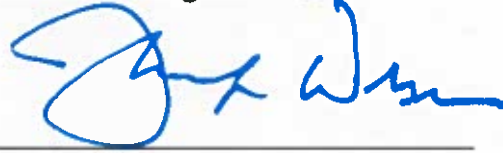
Grace F. Napolitano
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William R. Keating
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Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



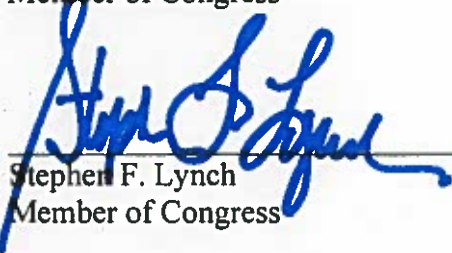
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
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Gregory W. Meeks
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Ron Kind

Ron Kind
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