

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

We urge you to use all U.S. diplomatic tools to help open the Yemeni port of Hodeida to international humanitarian aid organizations to allow them to import food, fuel and medicine into northern Yemen and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children who face starvation.

The Washington Post reports that "Hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children ... are nearing starvation." Airstrikes by the Saudi-led Coalition ("Coalition") in Hodeida, the main entry point for food, medicine and humanitarian aid into northern Yemen, have made it virtually impossible for humanitarian agencies to deliver supplies. The UN and international aid agencies says that Yemen is "on the brink of famine." Half a million children are severely acutely malnourished. More than 7.3 million people are in need of urgent food assistance.

The Coalition has told humanitarian agencies to redirect shipments to Aden. That would mean food and medicine will need to be trucked from Aden through war zones to reach the millions at risk of starvation in the north. This would be logistically difficult given the precarious security situation; aid trucks would have to pass through as many as one hundred checkpoints to get aid from Aden to northern Yemen.¹ The International Committee of the Red Cross says food reserves are dwindling² and international aid agencies are calling on the parties to the conflict to allow food, fuel and medicine into Hodeida port.³

The ultimate resolution to Yemen's civil war must be diplomatic, and the U.S. should be encouraging the warring parties to return to the negotiating table. But right now, the U.S. must act urgently to avert famine and employ our diplomatic clout with the Coalition members to ensure that humanitarian goods can get into the port of Hodeida. The lives of hundreds of thousands of children are at stake.

¹ "Hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children are nearing starvation," *Washington Post*, February 24, 2017
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/hundreds-of-thousands-of-yemeni-children-are-nearing-starvation/2017/02/23/f01ead8a-f850-11e6-aa1e-5f735ee31334_story.html

² "Red Cross: Yemen Food Reserves Dwindling as War Escalates," *Voice of America*, February 28, 2017
<http://www.voanews.com/a/yemen-food-reserve-dwindling/3743457.html>

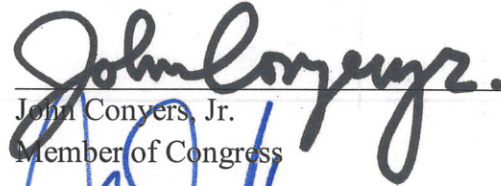
³ "Yemen conflict: Red Cross appeals for access to key port," *BBC*, February 28, 2017
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39114349>

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

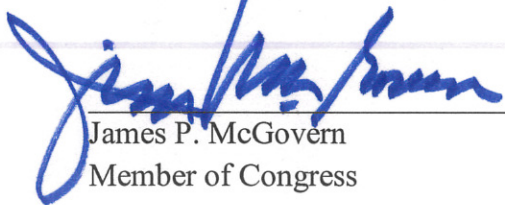
Sincerely,



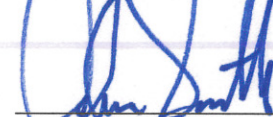
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



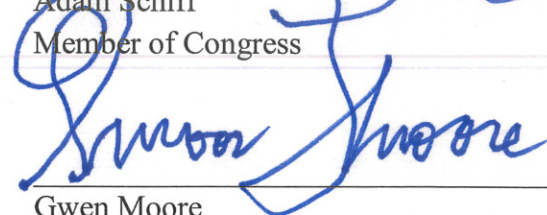
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



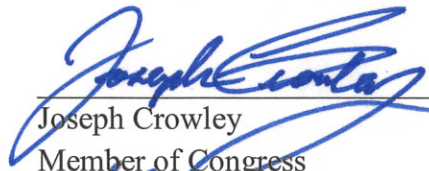
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



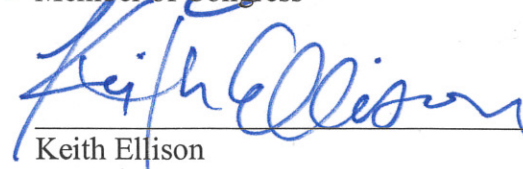
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



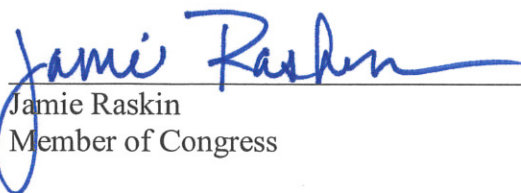
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



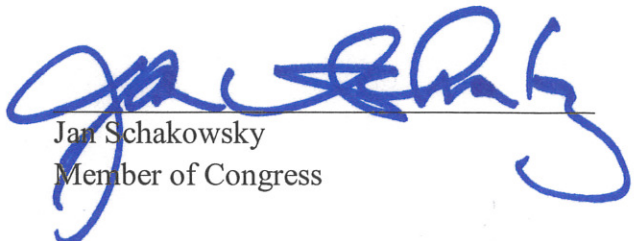
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



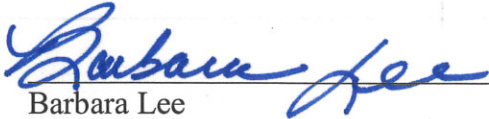
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



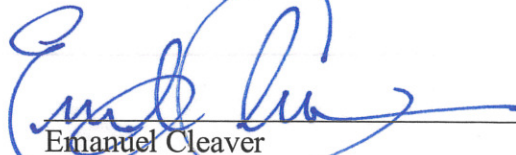
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



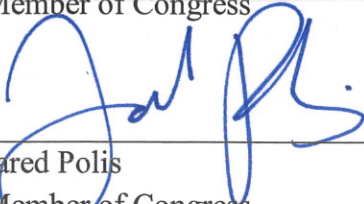
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



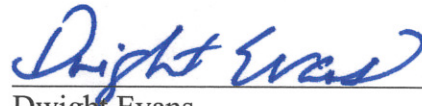
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



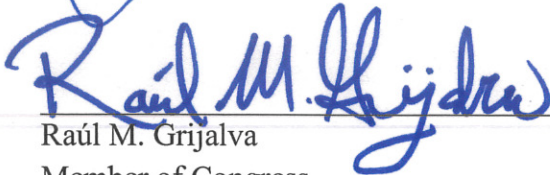
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



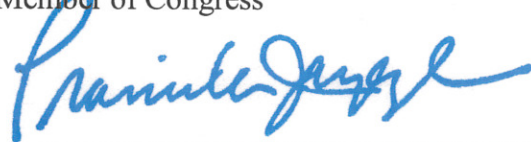
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



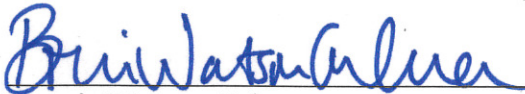
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



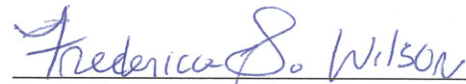
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



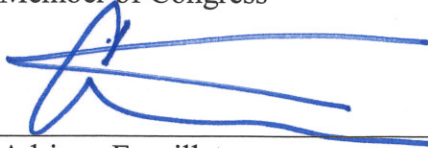
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



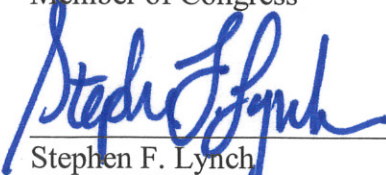
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



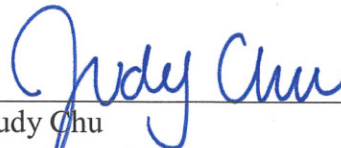
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



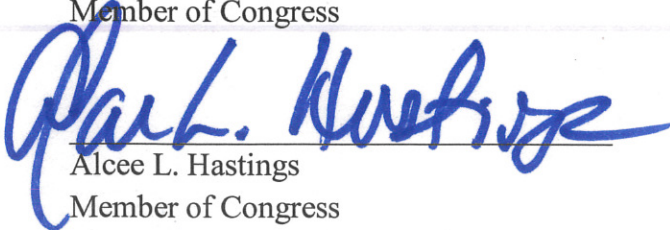
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



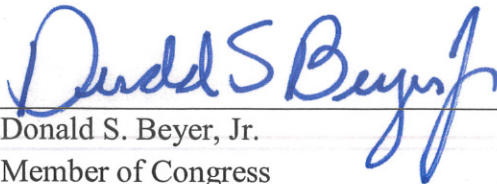
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



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



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



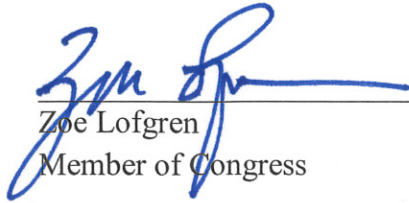
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



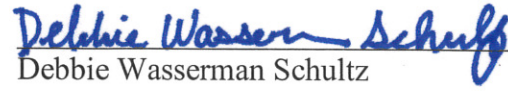
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



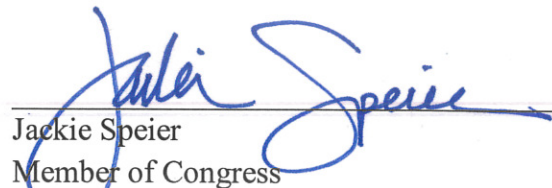
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



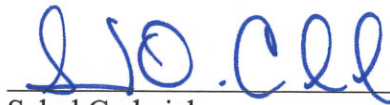
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



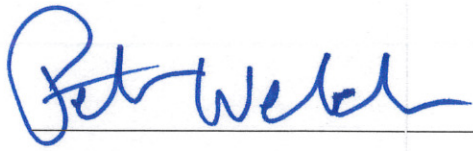
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Welch", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Peter Welch
Member of Congress