

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1314

June 28, 2013

John Boehner
Speaker of the House
The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

We are writing to express serious concerns regarding proposals to eliminate or cap the deduction on tax-exempt municipal bonds in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal.

For more than a century, municipal bonds have enjoyed tax-exempt status and have been the primary method by which state governments and local municipalities finance public capital improvements and infrastructure construction. These projects are engines of job creation and economic growth, and it is imperative that their tax-exempt status remain unchanged.

Over the last decade, municipal bonds have funded more than \$1.9 trillion worth of infrastructure construction. This financing went to the construction of schools, hospitals, airports, affordable housing, water and sewer facilities, public power utilities, roads, and public transit. In 2012 alone, more than 6,600 tax-exempt bonds financed more than \$179 billion in infrastructure spending.


As you have stated before, now is the time to invest in America. Yet, the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal recently submitted to Congress proposed capping the tax deduction for municipal bonds at 28 percent. Eliminating or capping the current deduction on municipal bonds would severely curtail state and local governments' ability to invest in themselves. It would increase borrowing costs to public entities and shift costs to local residents through tax or rate increases.

Moreover, eliminating or capping the current deduction on municipal bonds would slow the growth of job-creating infrastructure projects. In these tenuous economic times, it would be irresponsible to jeopardize funding for the dedicated citizens who work in these important facilities such as teachers, firefighters, police officers, hospital workers and librarians as well as the construction workers who build them.


As the discussion on various budget proposals continues and the national discussion on comprehensive tax reform begins, it is our hope that you will reject proposals to alter the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. While we agree that we must reduce government spending and our country's unsustainable debt, we should not be eliminating a vital tool for job growth and economic development. Thank you for your time and attention to this important national matter.

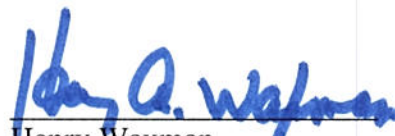
Sincerely,


Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress


Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

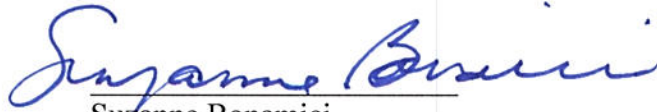

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

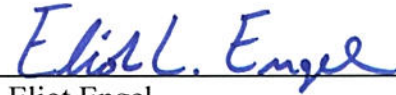

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress


Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

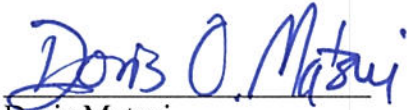

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



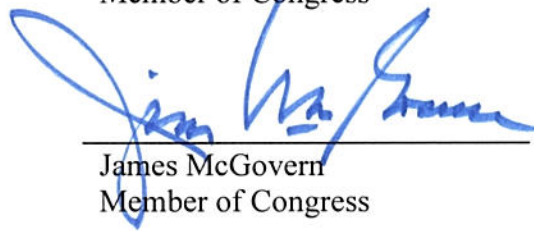
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



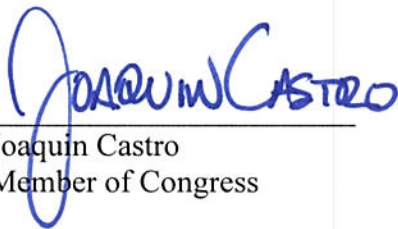
James McGovern
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



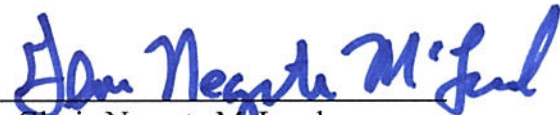
Howard Coble
Member of Congress




Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress

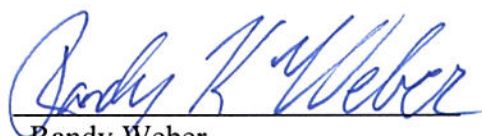



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress

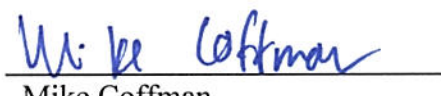

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress

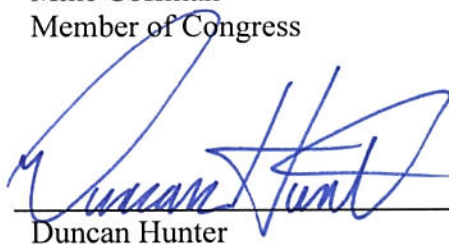

David Price
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress


Matt Salmon
Member of Congress


Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

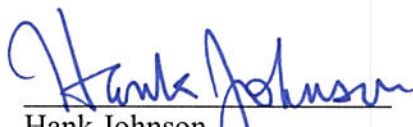

Dan Benishek
Member of Congress

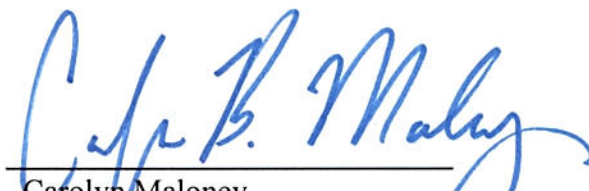

Rob Wittman
Member of Congress


Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

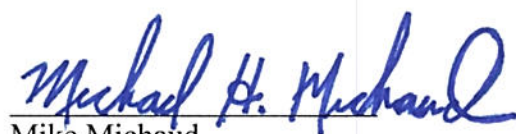

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

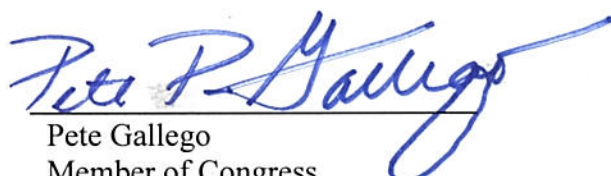

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

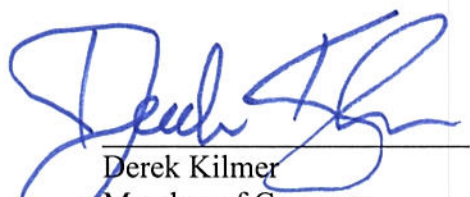

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress

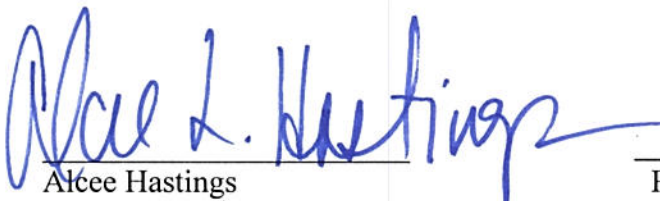

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



Pete Gallego
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

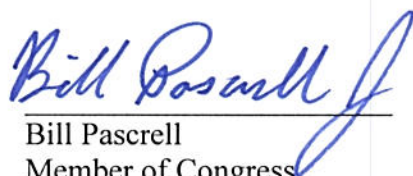

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

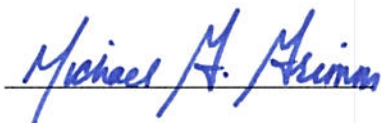

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress


Scott Peters
Member of Congress


Adam Schiff
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress


G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Michael Grimm
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



David Joyce
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



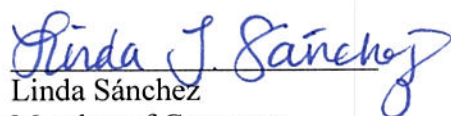
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



Gary Miller
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



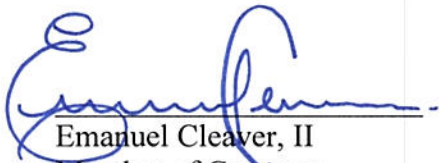
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress




Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



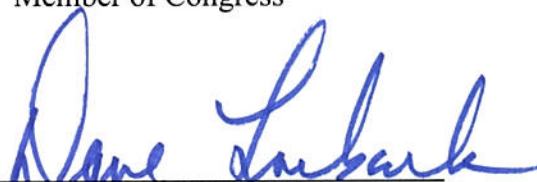
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



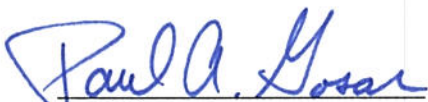
William Enyart
Member of Congress



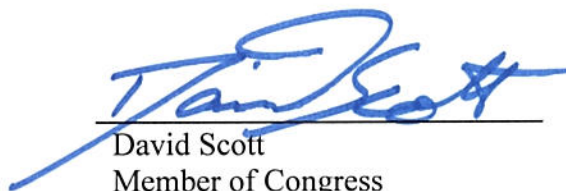
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



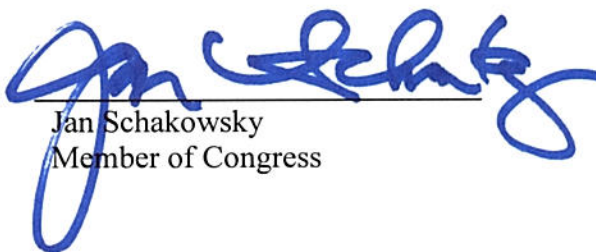
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress




David Scott
Member of Congress




Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

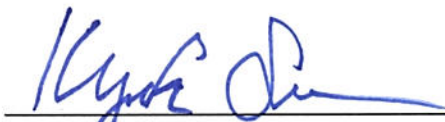


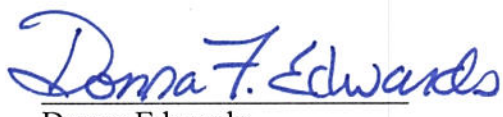
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

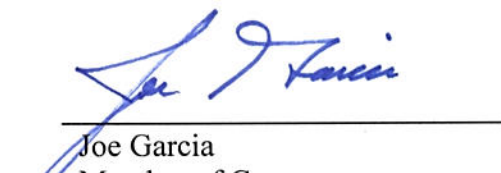

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress


Steven Horsford
Member of Congress


Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

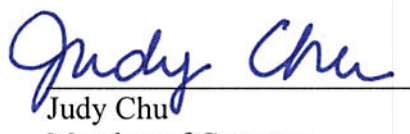

Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress

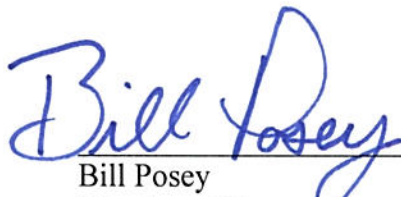

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress


Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

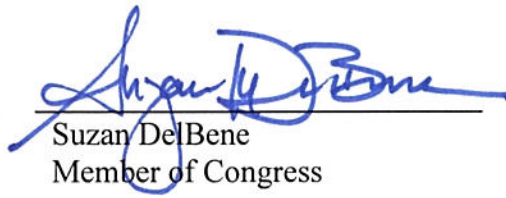

Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress



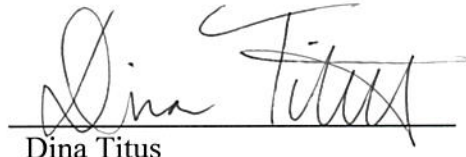
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



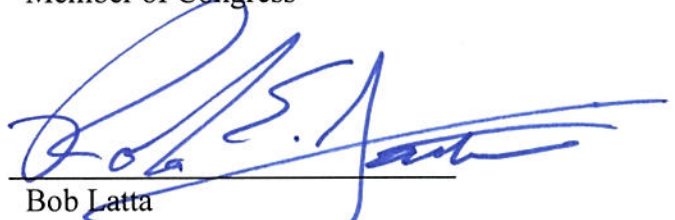
Rick Nolan
Member of Congress




Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Bob Latta
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



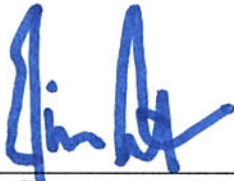
Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



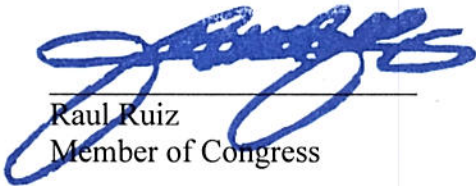
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



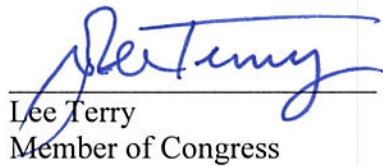
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress



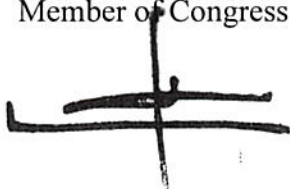
Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



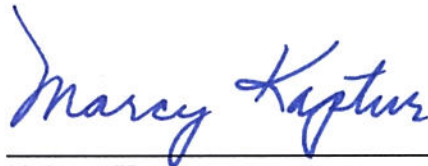
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



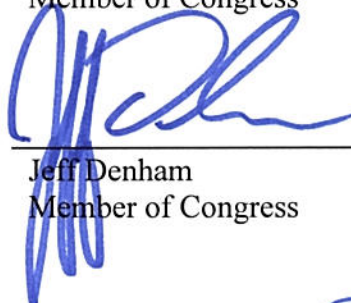
Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



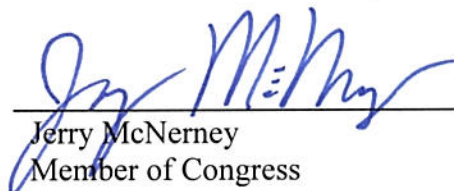
Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



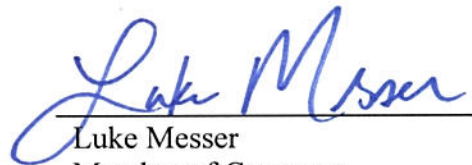
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



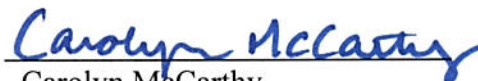
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



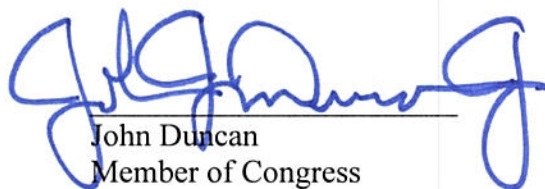
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



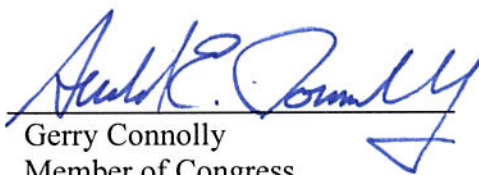
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



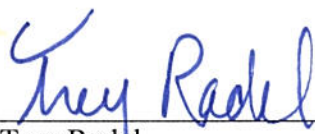
Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress



John Duncan
Member of Congress



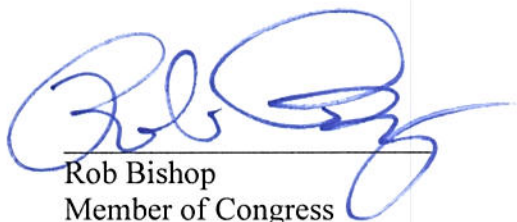
Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress



Trey Radel
Member of Congress



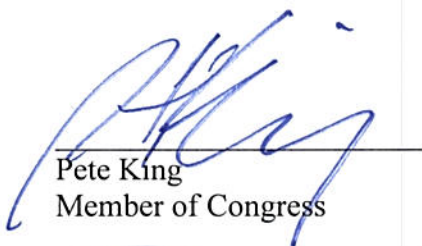
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



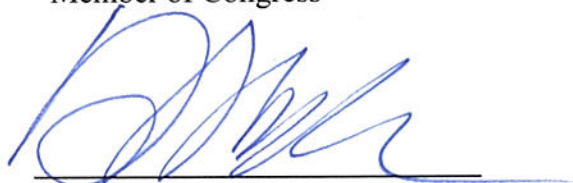
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



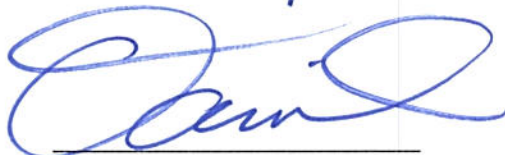
John Delaney
Member of Congress



Pete King
Member of Congress



David Valadao
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



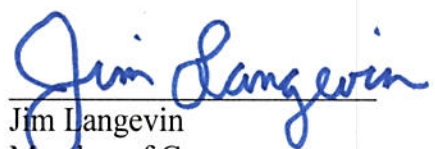
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Jo Bonner
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
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Jim Langevin
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Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress