

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

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

We write to urge your immediate attention and swift action on an issue that threatens to discriminate against rural areas and the farmers that are the backbone of rural economies.

On March 27, the House passed the CARES Act (PL 116-136) to respond to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and the bill was then signed into law. Because the public health measures necessary to slow the spread of coronavirus are taking a particular toll on small businesses, including our nation's farmers, the CARES Act provides a broad range of assistance to help tide over small businesses that might otherwise not be able to survive the impact.

Among those provisions, Section 1110 of the CARES Act creates an emergency economic injury grant program. In recognition that the coronavirus is affecting many types of entities that may not traditionally be considered small businesses, this provision expands the eligibility criteria in the underlying economic injury disaster loan program.

As a result, we were shocked and disappointed that, contrary to Congressional intent, the Small Business Administration singles out farmers and agricultural businesses as ineligible for this program. We ask that you share the Small Business Administration (SBA)'s rationale for excluding farms from this program, including any statutory limitations on aiding farmers.

We urge you to ensure that agricultural businesses and farmers are eligible to access the EIDL program, and the other small business provisions in the CARES act. Farmers need our help to make it through this pandemic while continuing to feed American families, fuel our economy, and sustain other resources which are essential to our survival. Now more than ever we must provide

our farmers and rural communities with federal assistance needed to combat this pandemic and not turn our backs on these communities.

Thank you, Administrator Carranza, for your attention to this critical matter, and for SBA's work to address the economic impacts of this pandemic. SBA's swift action on this issue will help alleviate the concerns of our nation's family farms, which are vital to our country and our communities.

Sincerely,



ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



JOSH HARDER
Member of Congress



ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



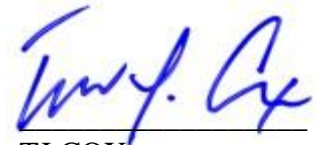
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



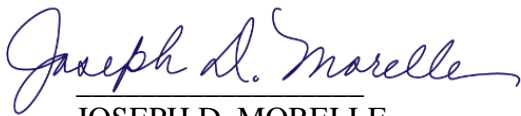
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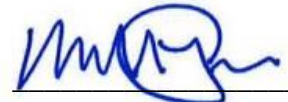
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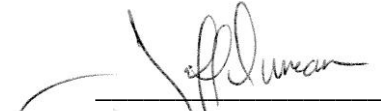
MARK POCAN
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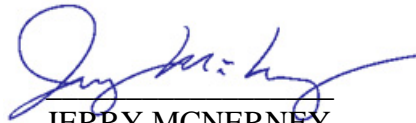
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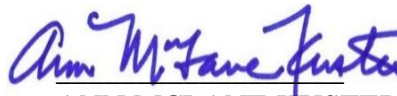
JERRY MCNERNEY
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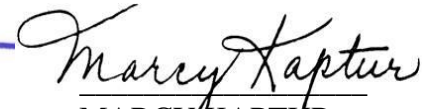
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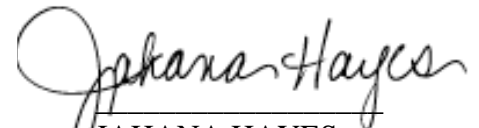
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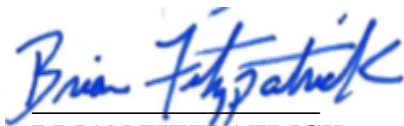
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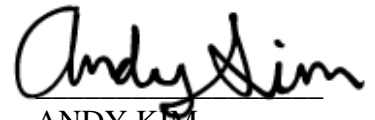
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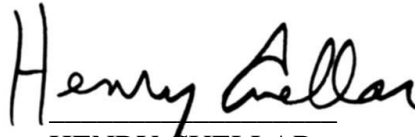
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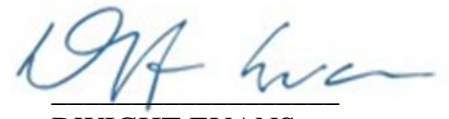
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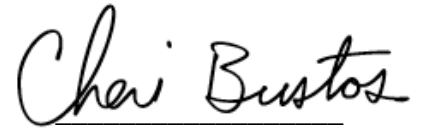
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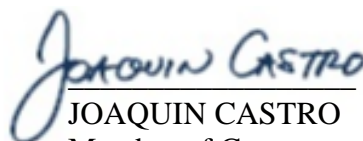
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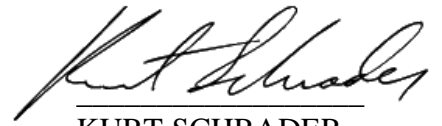
AL LAWSON
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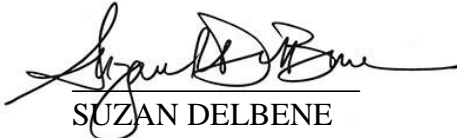
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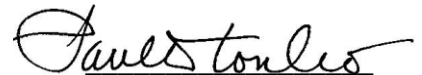
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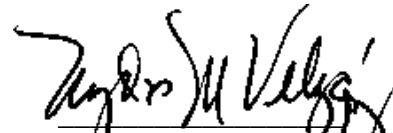
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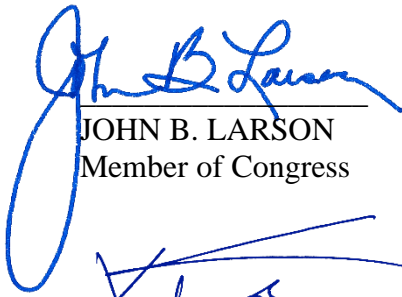
JULIA BROWNLEY
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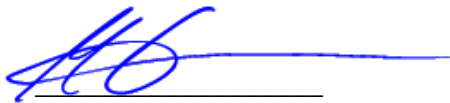
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J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress



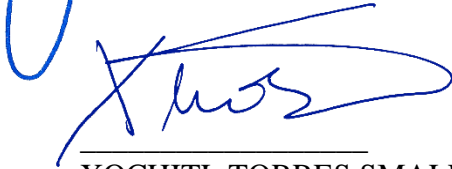
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