TED POE
2ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
FOUNDER OF CONGRESSIONAL VICTIM'S RIGHTS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4302

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October 20, 2008

The Honorable Michael Mukasey
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Mukasey:

In response to our government's recent attempts to stabilize the economy, our constituents repeatedly ask us why they must pay the price to bail out failing financial institutions. They want to know why people who avoided engaging in risky financial behavior are responsible for the greed and recklessness of Wall Street. Our constituents are concerned about their retirement accounts, their savings, and how they can afford to send their kids to college. Since these taxpayers are forced to take a stake in the financial institutions that our government has chosen to assist, they have valid questions, and they deserve honest answers.

We recognize that as Attorney General of the United States, you investigate crime on behalf of the American people. Accordingly, we request that you conduct an appropriate and thorough investigation into any and all financial institutions, corporations, and individuals that are suspect of criminal action relating to our current economic crisis. We also ask that you seek cooperation from financial crime units in other federal agencies.

In order to help restore the public's trust in our government, we believe that transparency and accountability is paramount, and therefore encourage you not only to respond to this letter, but also to periodically notify the committees of jurisdiction in Congress with the results of your investigation.

Also, we know that since the 2001 terrorist attacks, the F.B.I has shifted its primary focus from criminal investigations to counterterrorism efforts, resulting in a sharp decline of available resources to investigate white-collar crimes. However, the country's economic climate clearly illustrates the need for the F.B.I. to drastically increase its efforts to investigate criminal activity such as mortgage fraud. We therefore ask that you would address this problem, and that you would acknowledge our request for the F.B.I. to focus the appropriate funding and manpower to investigate financial crimes.

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During this time of financial uncertainty, people are looking to their government leaders for answers. Thank you for helping us assure them that the truth is being sought, and that justice will prevail.

Sincerely,

Rep. Ted Poe

Rep. Nancy Boyda

Rep. John Culberson

Rep. Michael McCaul

Rep. Joe Sestak

Rep. Henry Brown

Rep. John Carter

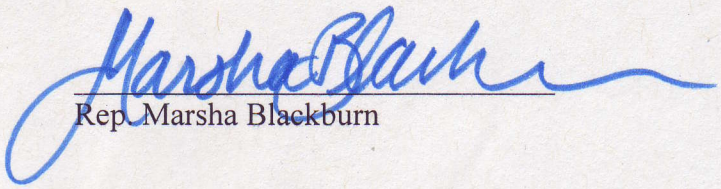
Rep. William Jefferson

Rep. Paul Broun

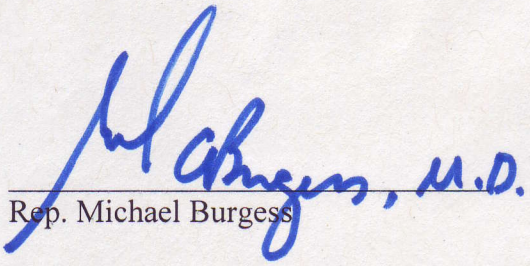
Rep. Pete Sessions

Rep. Frank LoBiondo

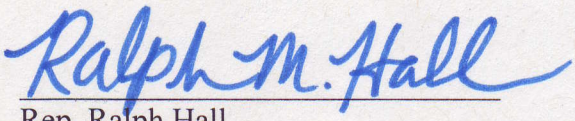
Rep. Jerry Costello



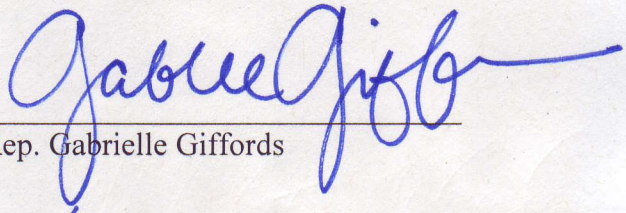
Rep. Marsha Blackburn



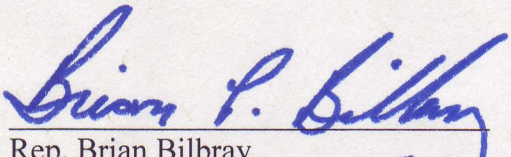
Rep. Michael Burgess



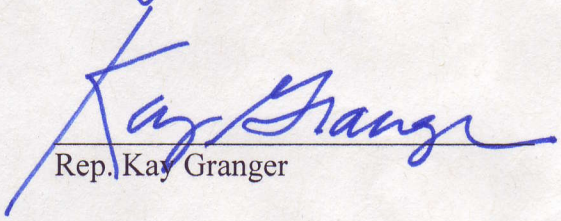
Rep. Ralph Hall



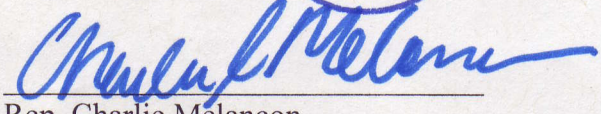
Rep. Gabrielle Giffords



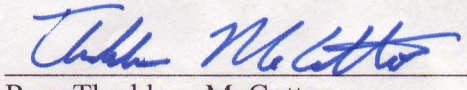
Rep. Brian Bilbray



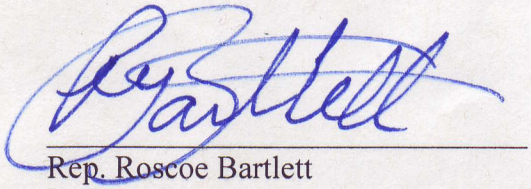
Rep. Kay Granger



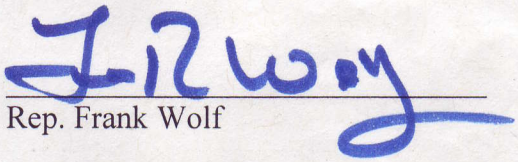
Rep. Charlie Melancon



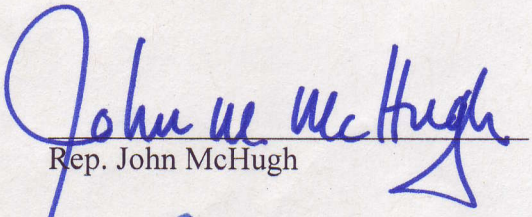
Rep. Thaddeus McCotter



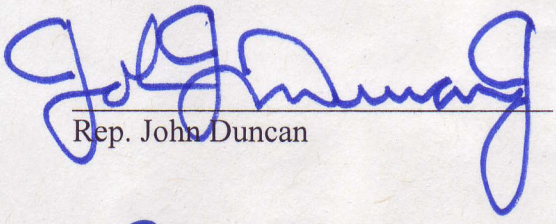
Rep. Roscoe Bartlett



Rep. Frank Wolf

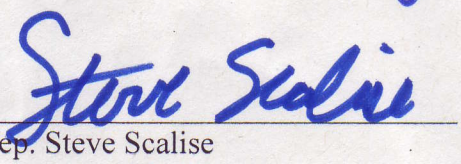


Rep. John McHugh



Rep. John Duncan

Rep. Donald Manzullo



Rep. Steve Scalise

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson

Rep. Philip English

Rep. Tim Walberg

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry

Rep. Chris Smith

cc: The Honorable Barney Frank
Chairman
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
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The Honorable Lamar Smith
Ranking Member
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