April 13, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing to request the immediate rollout of the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+), a vital program that provides desperately needed payments to agricultural producers who have experienced great economic losses as a result of qualifying natural disasters.

In 2020 and 2021, the Western United States suffered devastating wildfires, drought and unprecedented heat, the Midwest faced high winds and derechos, the South experienced a polar vortex and the Southeast endured hurricanes and extreme precipitation. These events ravaged our agriculture communities and resulted in billions of dollars of crop losses.

As Members of Congress, we were proud to work together to put forth $10 billion in disaster assistance for our agriculture community. We understand that you and your staff have been working since September of last year to prepare to administer this program. In that time, we have heard from thousands of constituents, some daily, asking for updates on WHIP+. Many have been waiting on financial assistance for nearly two years. Our offices have repeatedly asked for information from the Department and no response has adequately explained the now six-month delay.

Producers need this funding now. We urge you to do all in your power to expedite the rollout of assistance for individuals with crop losses so the funds we secured can be distributed immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

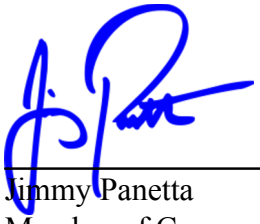
Sincerely,



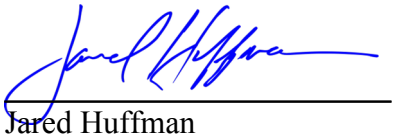
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



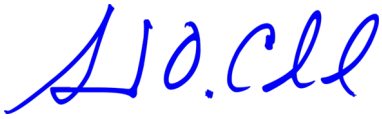
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



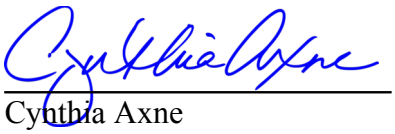
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



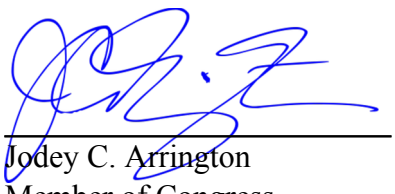
Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



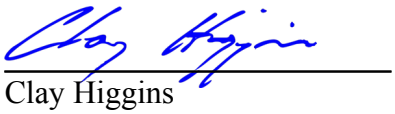
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



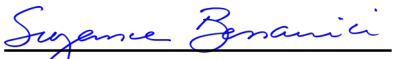
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



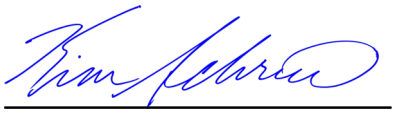
Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



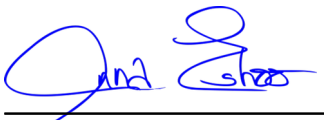
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



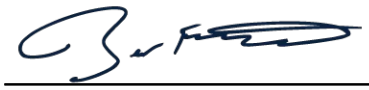
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



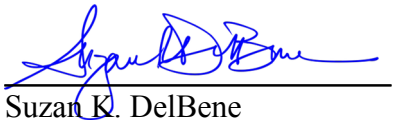
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



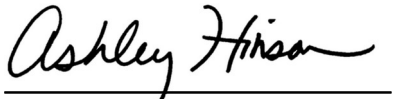
Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



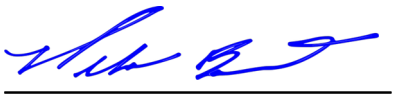
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



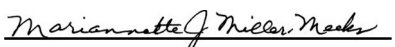
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



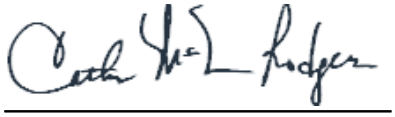
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



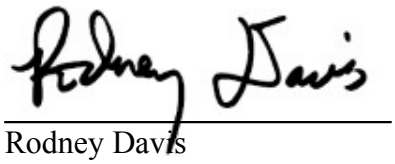
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



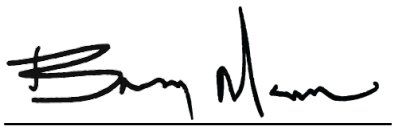
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



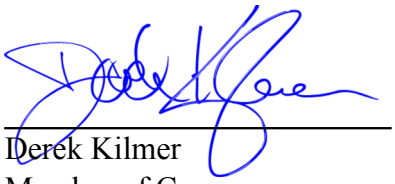
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



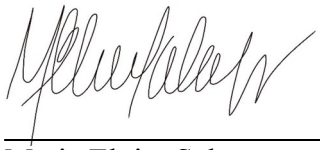
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



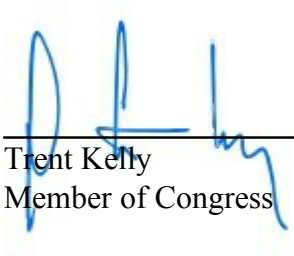
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



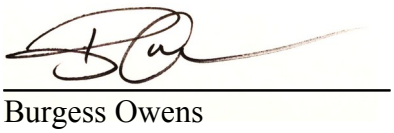
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



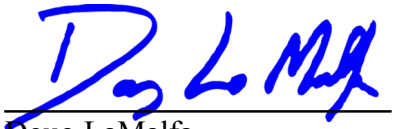
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



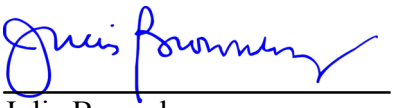
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



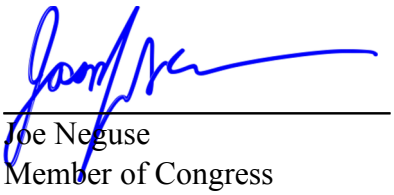
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



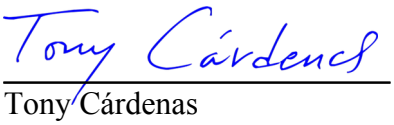
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



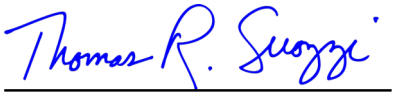
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



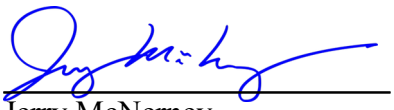
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress