

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2007

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Rahall:

This morning's Washington Post article, "Leaving No Tracks," exposes Vice President Richard B. Cheney for pressuring mid-level bureaucrats at the Department of Interior to manipulate agency decisions in environmental rulings across the country for the sole purpose of political gain.

His involvement in the Klamath River Basin is particularly alarming. According to today's article, the Vice President called Sue Ellen Wooldridge, deputy chief of staff, to Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton to pressure her into a policy for the Klamath River Basin that would benefit some farmers, over the protection of federally threatened and endangered fish – all to win votes in Oregon. His political interference resulted in a 10-year water plan for the Klamath River that has been unanimously ruled "arbitrary and capricious and in violation of the Endangered Species Act," by three courts.

Moreover, his action resulted in the largest adult salmon kill in the history of the West. The ramifications of that salmon kill are still being felt today as returns to the Klamath River are so low that commercial, sport and tribal fishing seasons have been curtailed for the past three years. In fact, last year's commercial fishing season for all of California and Oregon was cut by over 90 percent, and was the largest commercial fishing closure in the history of the country, causing over \$60 million in damages to coastal economies.

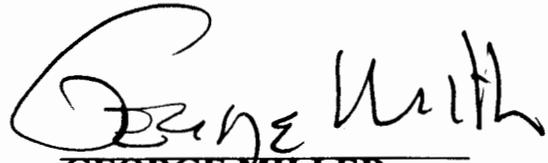
We request you hold oversight hearings on the Vice President's involvement in the Klamath River Basin decisions at your earliest convenience. His blatant disregard for law cannot be ignored.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to working with you on this very important issue.

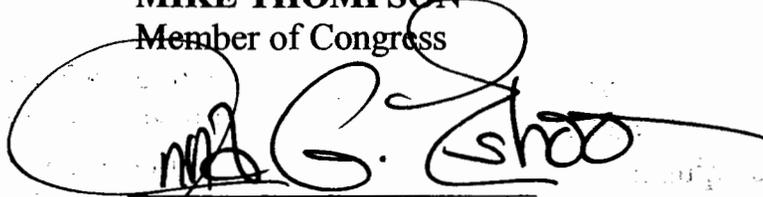
Sincerely,



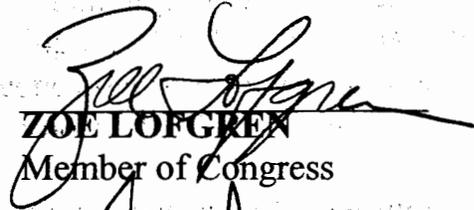
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



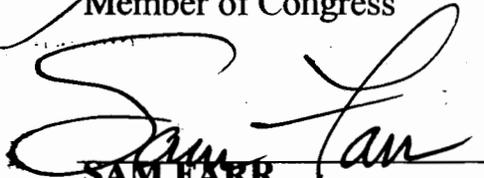
GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



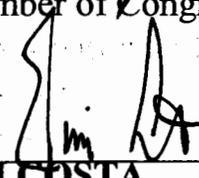
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Member of Congress



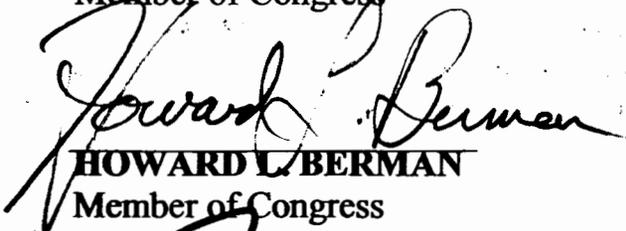
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BOB FILNER
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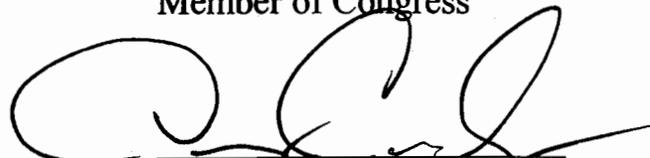
ADAM B. SCHIFF
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Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



DENNIS A. CARDOZA
Member of Congress



TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



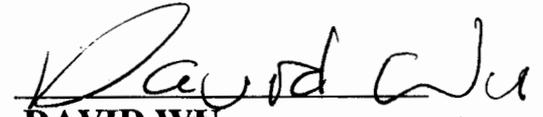
DIANE E. WATSON
Member of Congress



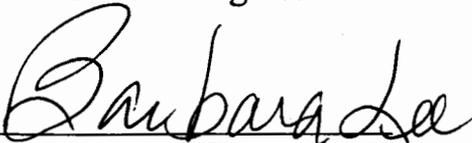
LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



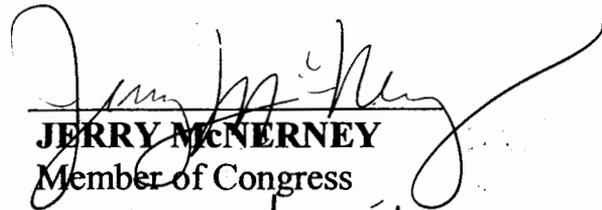
DORIS O. MATSUI
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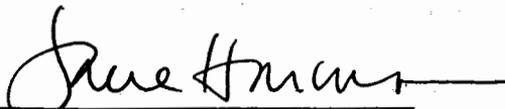
DAVID WU
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BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



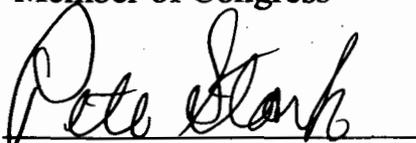
JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress



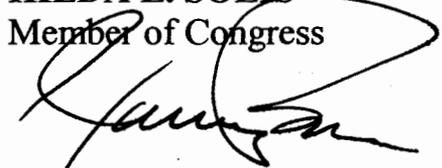
JANE HARMAN
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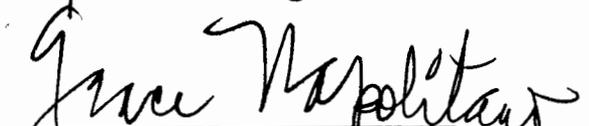
PETE STARK
Member of Congress



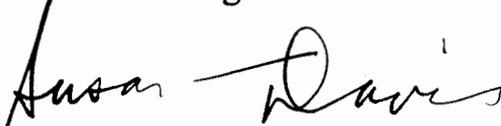
XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress



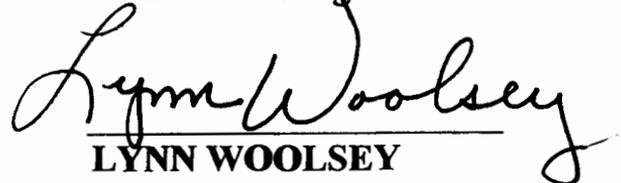
MIKE HONDA
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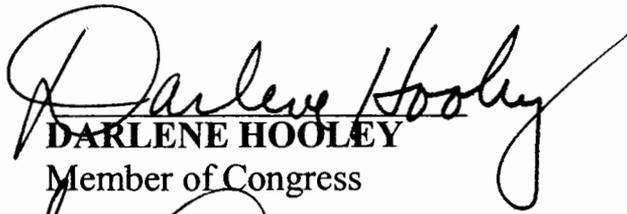
GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

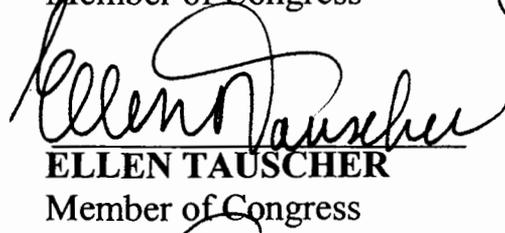


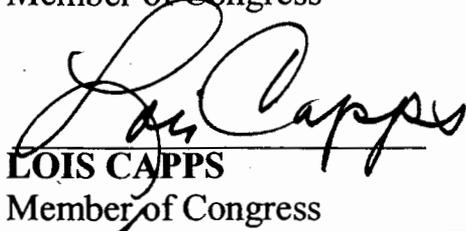
SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress

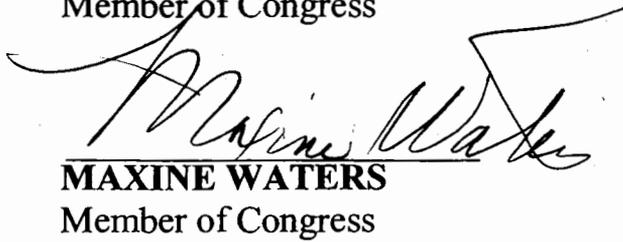


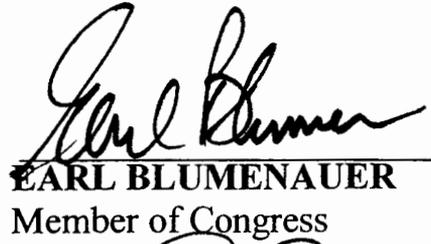
LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

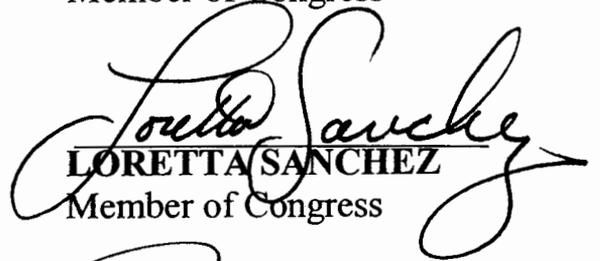

DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress

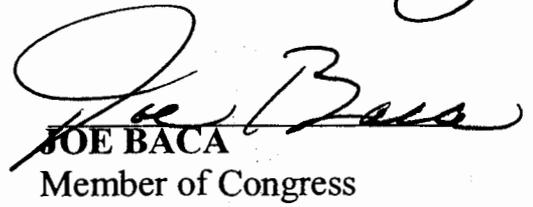

ELLEN TAUSCHER
Member of Congress

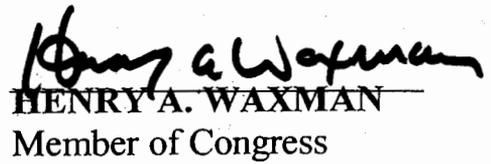

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