

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write to request that you include language furthering animal welfare at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agricultural research facilities in final Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations legislation negotiated with your Senate counterparts. There is widespread, bipartisan, and bicameral support for this issue.

This first received attention in January when the *New York Times* published a front page article that detailed disturbing animal research methods that have been used at the federally funded U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC). At least 6,500 animals are known to have starved to death at this facility alone, and there are over 50 Agricultural Research Service (ARS) facilities like it of varying sizes around the country.

In response to these abuses, 161 Representatives and 26 Senators requested that the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees include language barring USDA from using appropriated funds for agricultural research on live animals at federal facilities unless Animal Welfare Act requirements are met.

We appreciate the inclusion of language in the House Agriculture Appropriations bill that links more than \$55 million of the ARS budget for FY 2016 to improvements in the agency's animal welfare and oversight policies. The language also calls for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspections of ARS facilities, provides \$400,000 for APHIS to work with ARS on this, and directs ARS to provide regular reports to Congress. The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee included similar language that directs ARS to apply the standards of the Animal Welfare Act at all of its research labs, enter into an agreement with APHIS to have routine inspections conducted at these facilities, and report regularly to Congress.

Considering the overwhelming support in both chambers to prevent future animal abuses at USMARC and other ARS facilities, we urge you to ensure that similar language is included in any final appropriations measure for FY 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

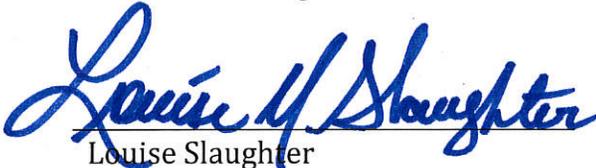
Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress



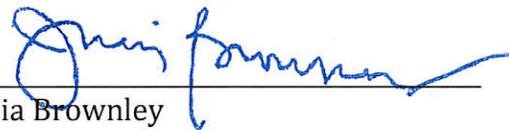
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



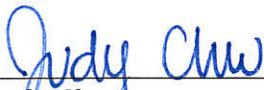
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress



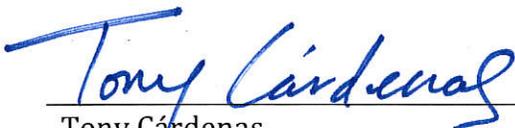
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



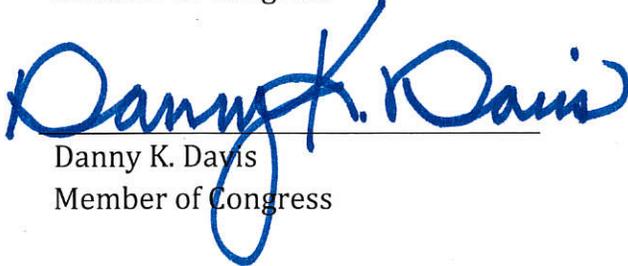
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Bob Dold
Member of Congress



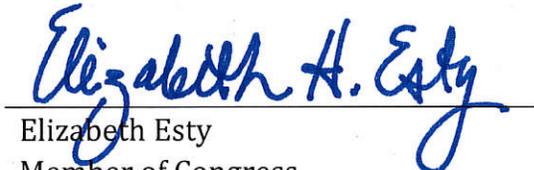
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



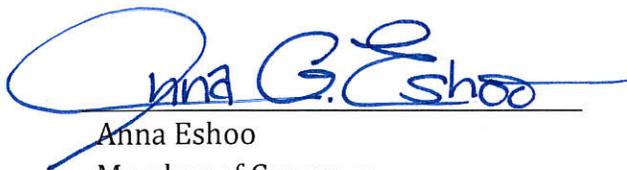
Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



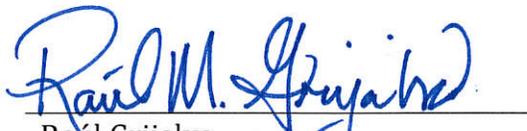
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



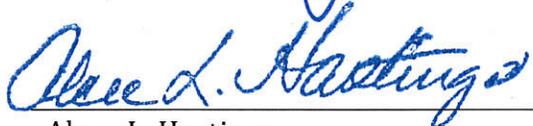
Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



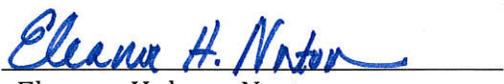
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

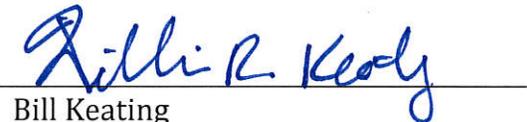

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

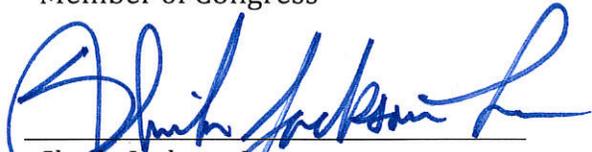

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

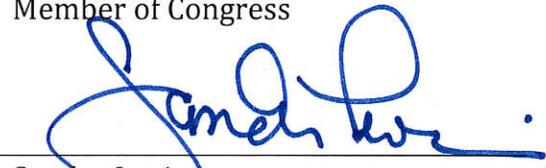

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

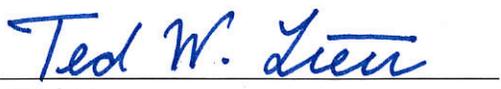

Bill Keating
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

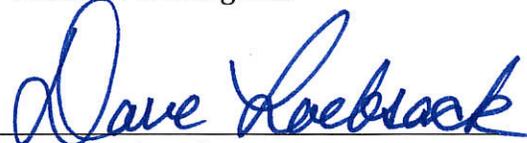

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

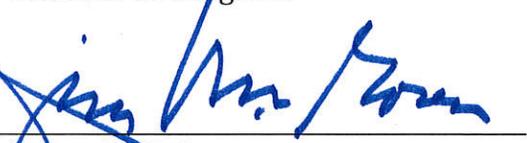

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

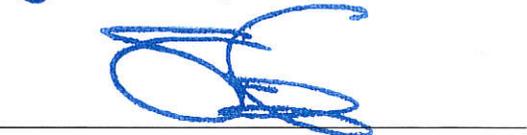

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress


Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



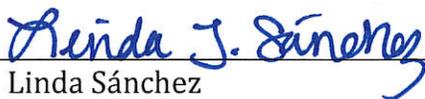
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



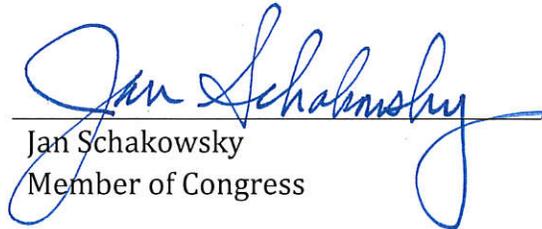
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



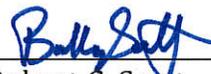
Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



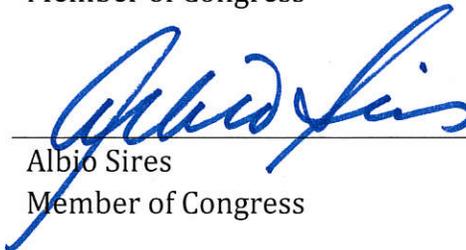
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress