

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

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
SFOPS Subcommittee
HT-2, Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
SFOPS Subcommittee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

As you work to assemble the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025, we urge you to include robust bilateral and multilateral funding for critical international climate finance accounts that have historically been listed under Section 7061 of the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2023 SFOPS funding bills. These accounts address critical development and humanitarian needs and strengthen U.S. economic, foreign policy, and national security interests.

U.S. foreign assistance—in the form of both bilateral and multilateral funds for international climate finance—address vital U.S. interests. This critical funding promotes global stability and security, alleviates global poverty, ensures significant cost savings by promoting resilience and disaster preparedness, protects U.S. investments in international development, creates trade and economic opportunities for U.S. businesses and workers in burgeoning clean energy sectors, protects tropical forests and other critical ecosystems, strengthens the U.S.’s strategically important partnerships with its allies, and enhances global health, food, and water security efforts. National security experts recognize the danger that climate change poses and the negative impacts on the U.S.’s economic, humanitarian, and development interests abroad. Again and again, global competitors like China are painting the U.S. as unresponsive to developing countries’ climate needs and pointing to the growing gap in climate financing between the U.S. and peer nations. Indeed, at a time of increasing global fragmentation, those who seek to strengthen their own hand by driving a wedge between the U.S. and our partners around the world are doubling down on this cynical and calculated narrative. For the sake of preserving the U.S.’s relationship with its allies and its reputation as a global leader, Congress must do all that it can to fund bilateral and multilateral international climate finance programs.

These programs have produced real, measurable benefits while also leveraging substantial sums in co-financing from other donors. For instance, thanks to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 12 million people across the world have been able to use weather and climate data to manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change, allowing them to better respond to extreme weather events in their communities and saving lives in the process. U.S.-backed international climate finance programs are also incentivizing developing countries to curb deforestation while addressing rural poverty and improving the way that lands are managed and harvested—leveraging every dollar of

U.S. funding with up to 39 times more funding from other donors. Other U.S.-backed initiatives have mobilized more than \$30 for every one U.S. dollar spent to strengthen and expand overseas energy programs. Indeed, investment in developing country energy infrastructure is expected to exceed \$30 trillion over the next 25 years—and a small investment of U.S. funds can help shape that enormous market for decades to come. These programs build resilience to drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events, while also stewarding tropical forests and other carbon-rich and biodiverse landscapes and seascapes. In doing so, these programs strengthen American alliances, prevent food and water scarcities and—importantly—bolster U.S. national security in the process. By honoring the U.S. government’s commitment to fund international mitigation and adaptation efforts in Fiscal Year 2025, this Congress can ensure the U.S. remains a global leader on climate issues, while driving ambition among other governments and harnessing the power of markets to generate further investments. In short, when the U.S. acts in this arena, the world takes notice.

Lastly, in many cases, these bilateral and multilateral international climate finance programs have benefitted from years of bipartisan support under both Republican and Democratic administrations and Congresses. As such, we strongly urge you to include robust funding for both bilateral and multilateral economic climate assistance in the Fiscal Year 2025 SFOPS appropriations bill. These programs represent a small fraction of the U.S.’s overall foreign aid budget, but they provide outsized benefits to the U.S. through smart, secure, and sustainable development.

We appreciate your consideration of this important bipartisan request.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



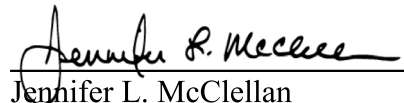
Ro Khanna
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Colin Z. Allred
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Suzanne Bonamici
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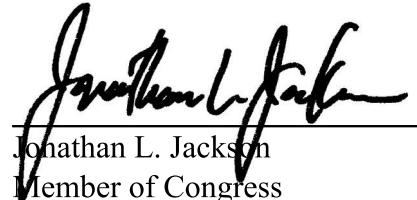
Dwight Evans
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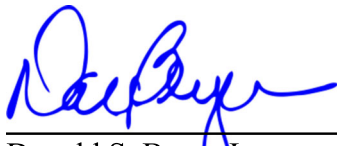
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



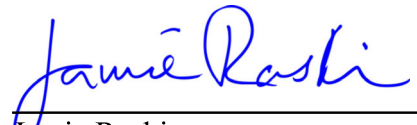
Brian Fitzpatrick
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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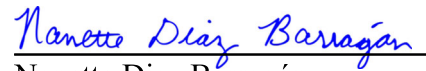
Sean Casten
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Jimmy Gomez
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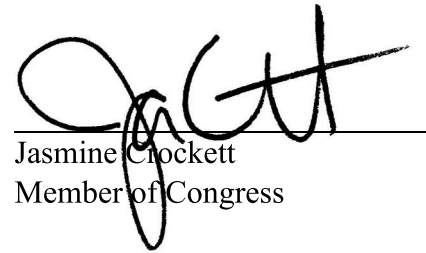
James P. McGovern
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Andrea Salinas
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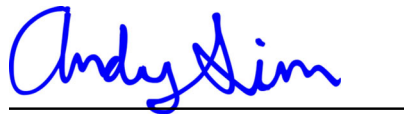
Jasmine Crockett
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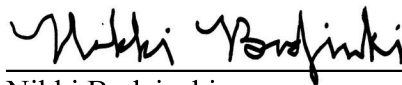
Yvette D. Clarke
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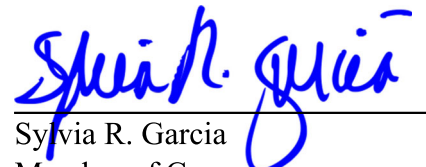
Andy Kim
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Scott H. Peters
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Nikki Budzinski
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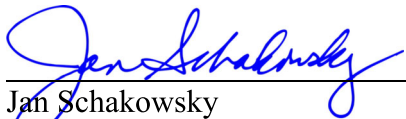
Sylvia R. Garcia
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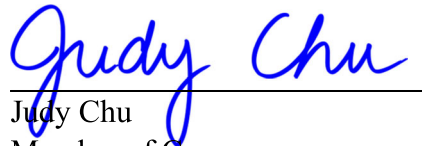
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Jan Schakowsky
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Judy Chu
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Madeleine Dean
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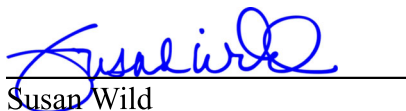
Adam Smith
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Jim Tokuda
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Susan Wild
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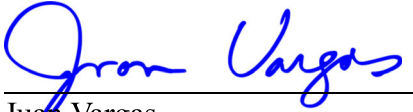
Michael V. Lawler
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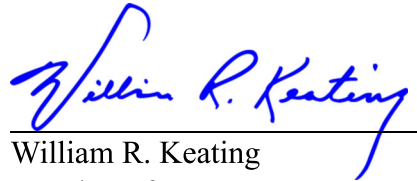
Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



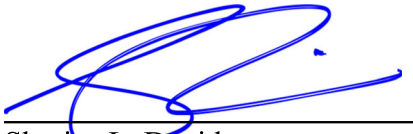
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



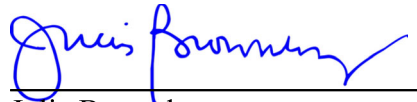
Juan Vargas
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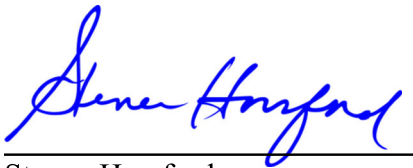
William R. Keating
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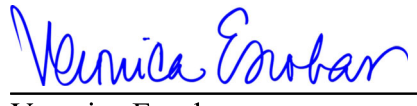
Sharice L. Davids
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Julia Brownley
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Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth Congressional
District



Veronica Escobar
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



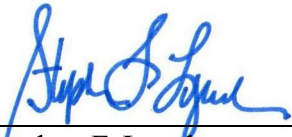
Earl Blumenauer
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Dina Titus
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Mary Sattler Peltola
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