

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senators Schumer, McConnell, Wyden and Crapo:

We write to you about the need for the Senate to expeditiously consider the bipartisan Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023 (H.R. 5863). Although the Senate was unable to pass the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 (H.R. 7024), millions of Americans are still in need of federal disaster tax relief. The need for this relief cannot be overstated, and that is reflected in the unprecedented discharge petition the House used to pass this legislation. This bipartisan effort was the result of 29 Republicans and 189 Democrats. After this successful discharge petition, the bill was scheduled for a vote on May 21, 2024, when it passed 382-7.

This was the third successful discharge petition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The previous two, in 2002 and 2015, were both measures taken up by the Senate and signed into law by the President. It is our hope that the historic significance of our discharge petition on the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023 demonstrates to the Senate the weight of its importance.

Through no fault of their own, too many Americans have incurred thousands of dollars in disaster-related expenses. Many others are also facing unfair tax burdens as a result of being heavily taxed on rightful compensation from being the victim of a wildfire disaster.

The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023 is a comprehensive bill that includes coverage to over 300 disasters across 47 states as well as addressing both wildfire payments and the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment. This bill, and the bills precursing it, predate the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 (H.R. 7024). It is the bipartisan result of representatives joining efforts to deliver disaster relief for American taxpayers after a years-long effort independent of the bipartisan tax package.

To provide some brief history on disaster tax relief initiatives:

- On January 10, 2023, Reps. Doug LaMalfa and Mike Thompson introduced H.R. 176 to exclude from gross income of a taxpayer the compensation victims receive in connection to a qualifying wildfire disaster.
- On March 1, 2023, Rep. Bill Johnson introduced H.R. 1270 to exclude from gross income the compensation resulting from the East Palestine train derailment on February 3, 2023.
- On March 1, 2023, Rep. Greg Steube introduced H.R. 1331 to treat Hurricane Ian as a qualified disaster area for purposes of the disaster-related casualty loss tax deduction.

All of our constituents know the devastating nature of disaster recovery all too well. It is our sincere hope that the Senate will take up the Federal Disaster Tax Relief of 2023 on unanimous consent to swiftly pass this bill so the President can sign it into law quickly.

Sincerely,



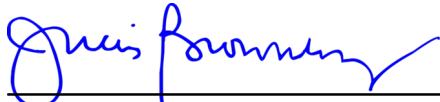
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



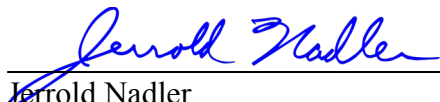
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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



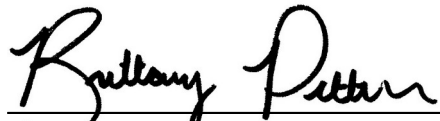
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



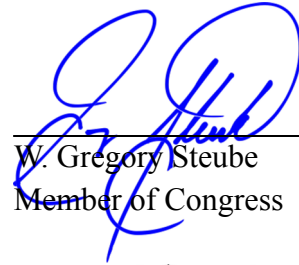
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



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Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



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Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



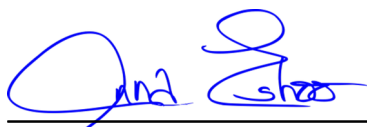
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



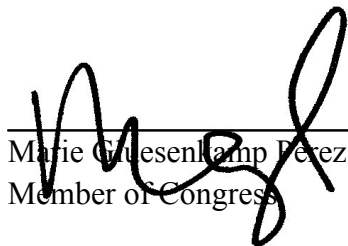
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Marie Glesne Perez  
Member of Congress



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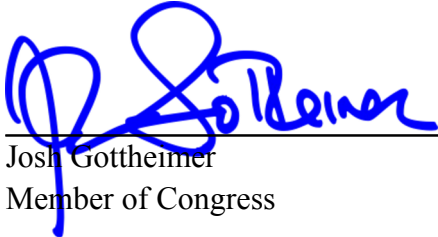
Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



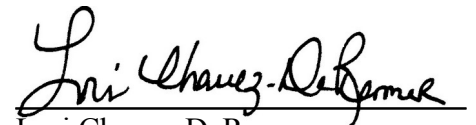
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
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Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress



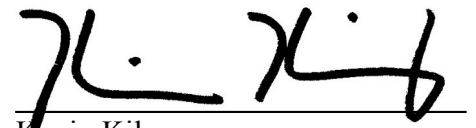
Danny K. Davis  
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Kevin Mullin  
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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley  
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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

Ed Case

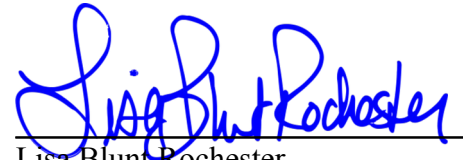
Ed Case  
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Vern Buchanan  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
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Juan Vargas

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Joe Neguse  
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Dina Titus

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Terri A. Sewell  
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Gabe Vasquez  
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Shri Thanedar  
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Sylvia R. Garcia


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Troy Carter  
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress


  
C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress


  
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

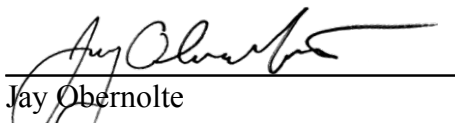
  
Eric Sorenson  
Member of Congress

  
Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress


  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

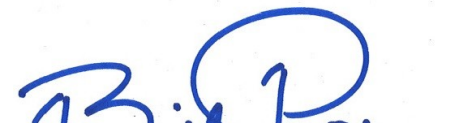
  
Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

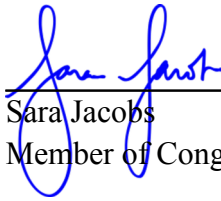
  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

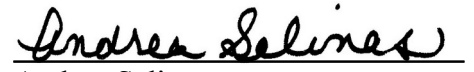
  
Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress


  
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Posey  
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

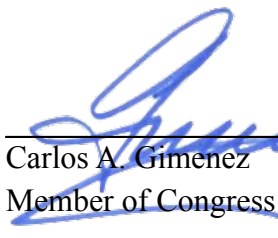
  
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress


  
Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress

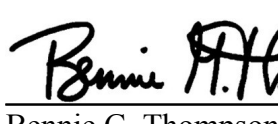
  
Nancy Mace  
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Mike Garcia  
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Darren Soto  
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Carlos A. Gimenez  
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Morgan Luttrell  
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Laurel M. Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



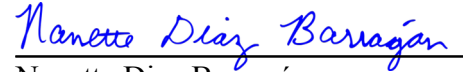
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



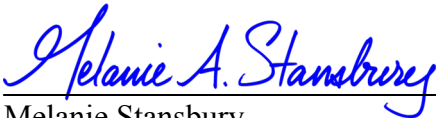
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



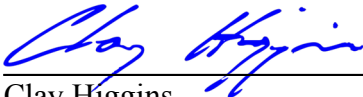
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



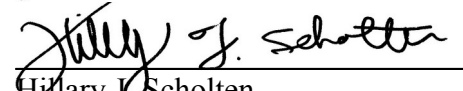
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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
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