Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

We write to you today regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 House budget resolution and to express our unwavering support for fully funding national defense at or above the $561 billion identified by the President in his budget request. While we understand the current fiscal constraints and the continued burden placed on non-defense programs as a result of the President's sequestration, we cannot afford to jeopardize the safety and security of the homeland and our interests abroad.

As Members of the United States Congress, our principal duty is to "provide for the common defense" of the nation. It is undeniable that the United States and our allies currently face some of the greatest risks and most complex security challenges in recent history. As a result of an indecisive and complacent Administration led by President Obama, terrorist groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continue to sweep across much of the Middle East; the Russian Federation seeks to destabilize much of Europe in a desperate attempt to reignite the fallen Soviet Empire; and in the Pacific, an emerging China continues to develop its military strength in order to counter the United States and its allies in the region.

House Republicans have a long-standing commitment to the safety and security of our citizens, as well as protecting our interests abroad. Since the onset of sequestration, we have held countless hearings, heard testimony from military leadership, and seen firsthand the challenges these complex threats pose to our primary mission of keeping our nation and citizens safe. Through this effort, we have developed not only a deep understanding of these threats, but also redoubled our respect and appreciation for our men and women in uniform who sacrifice everything to defend our freedoms.

It is clear that further reductions to national defense accounts are unacceptable and place too great a burden on our warfighters. As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey recently stated to Members of Congress, the $561 billion included in the President's budget request represents the "jagged edge" of what can be spent in order to carry-out current missions around the world.

As we continue to work with the House Budget Committee to formulate a budget resolution for FY 2016, we ask for your support and leadership to ensure that national defense is adequately funded at or above the $561 billion included in the President's budget request. Throughout these challenging times, you have been a stalwart supporter of our military and the men and women who serve. We look forward to working with you and our colleagues on the House Budget Committee as we continue to address these challenges.

Sincerely,

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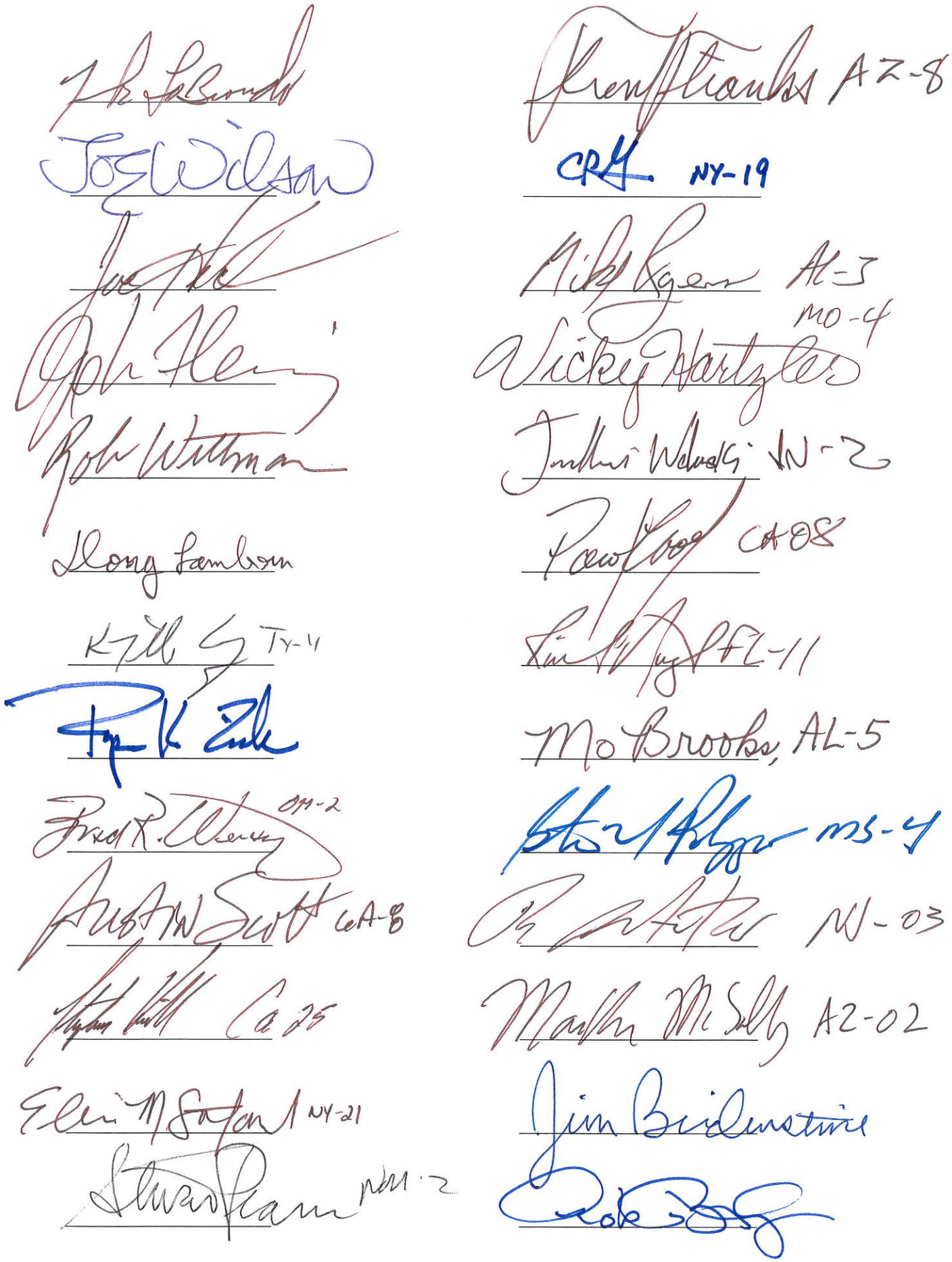

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Tom Marino PA-10

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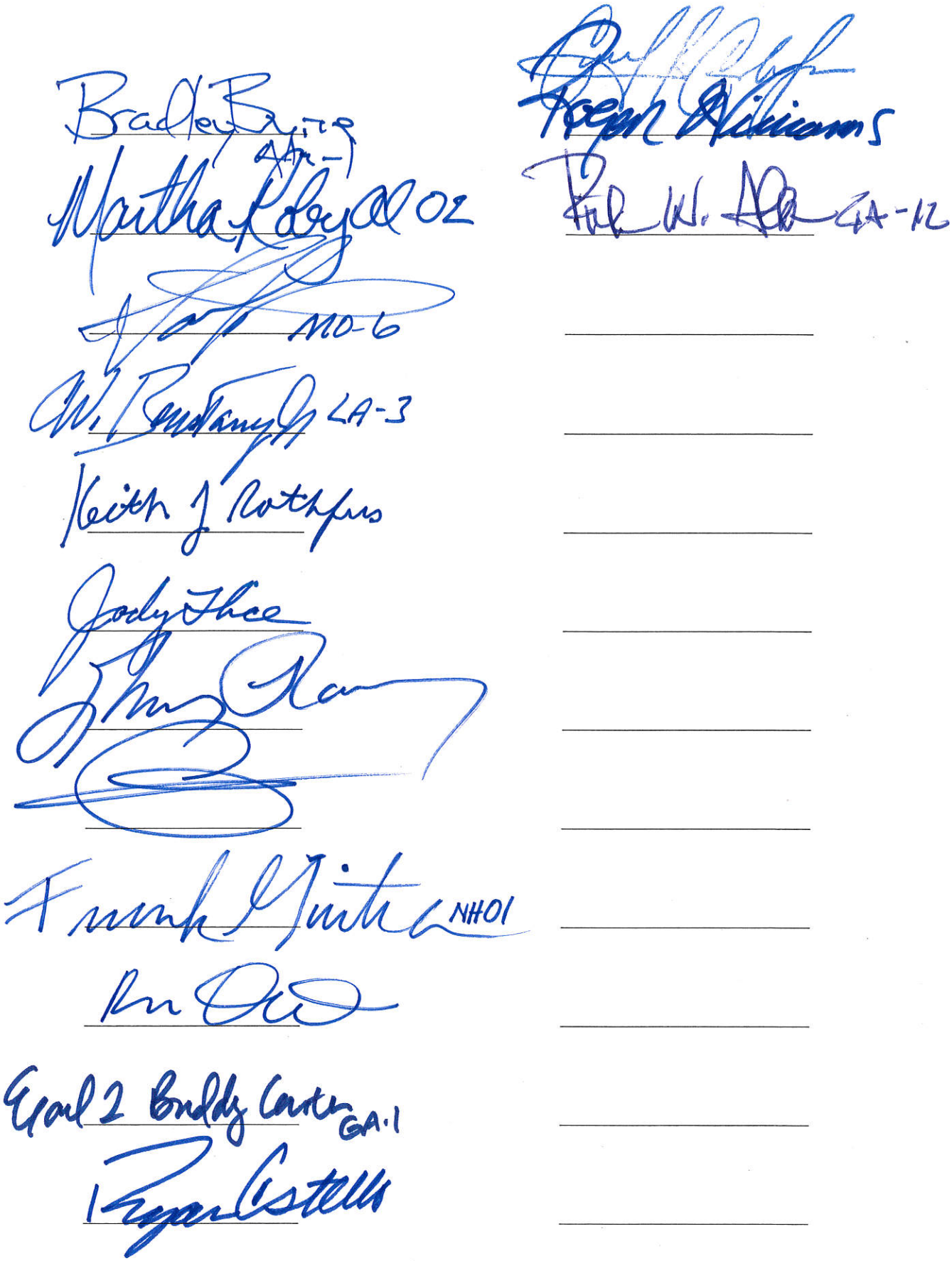
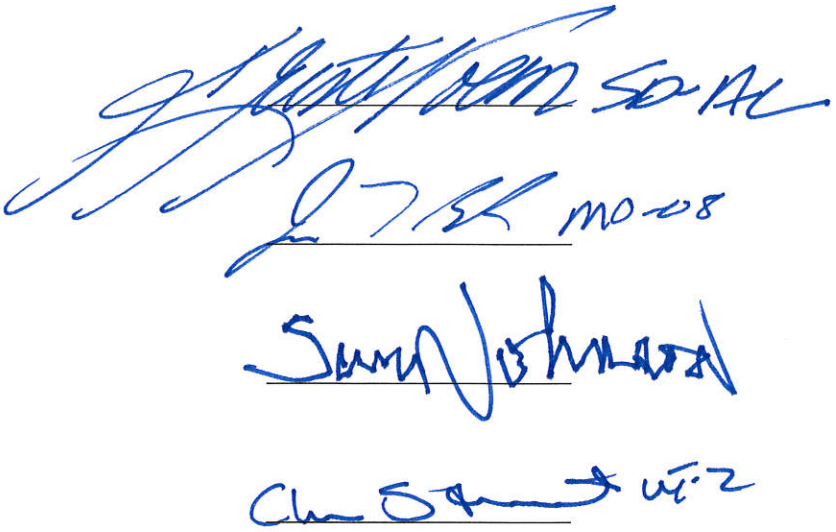
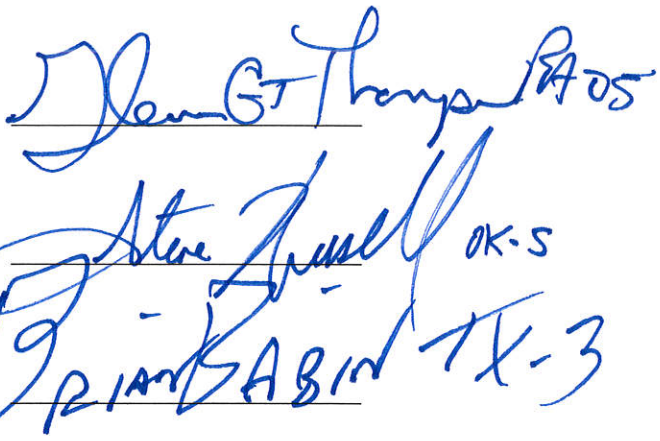
Mike Pompeo KS-4

Marsha Blackburn







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