

United States Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 29, 2024

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chair Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

We write in support of legislation to renew the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, including in any legislative vehicle.

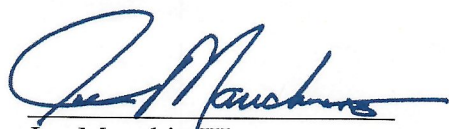
Our COFA partnerships are critical to U.S. national security. Failure to pass the renegotiated Compacts as soon as possible imperils our relationships with the Freely Associated States and the entire Pacific Island region, who view the COFA as a barometer of the U.S. commitment to the region. They ensure that we, rather than a nation hostile to U.S. interests, maintain strategic control of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the Philippines.

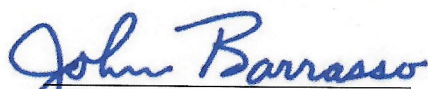
The People's Republic of China (PRC) is engaged in active efforts to undermine Pacific Island nations' confidence in the United States. Failure to act on COFA opens the door to more corrupting influence and funding by the PRC in the region. The PRC is pursuing military basing and policing agreements in the region and working to undermine recognition of Taiwan, and exerting corrupting influence in several other countries. Without the COFA agreements, these trends would accelerate.


These unique bilateral agreements are the product of nearly four years of negotiations under two Presidential Administrations, and year-long negotiations across eight primary committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate and multiple others. The resulting bicameral, bipartisan legislation will secure U.S. national security in the Indo-Pacific for the next two decades.

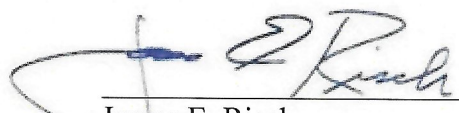
We ask for your support in moving the COFA package forward with the urgency it requires. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

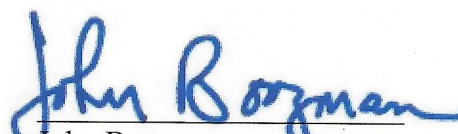

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

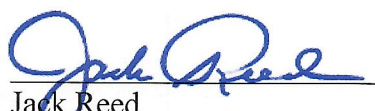

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

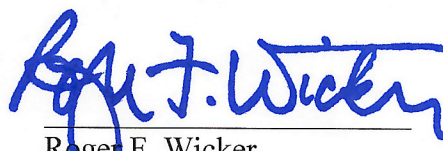

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator

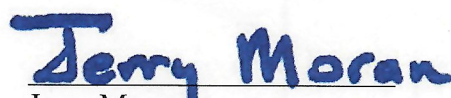

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


John Boozman
United States Senator

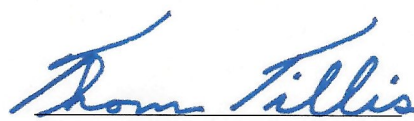

Jack Reed
United States Senator

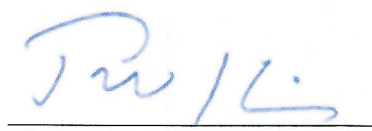

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Jerry Moran
United States Senator


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Thom Tillis
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator

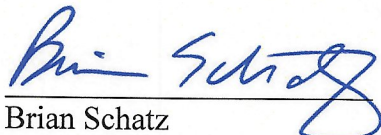

Todd Young
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



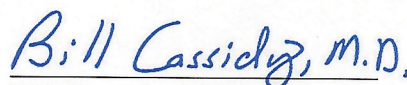
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



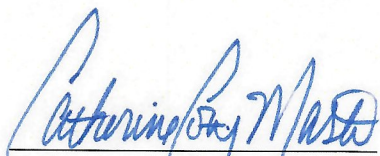
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



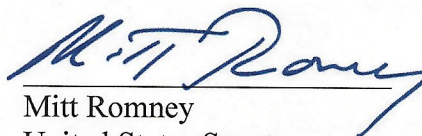
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



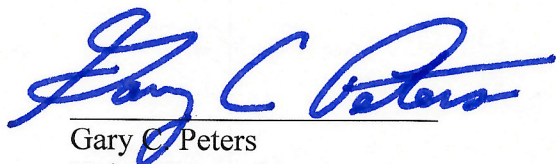
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



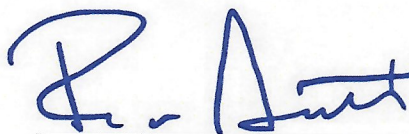
Catherine Cortez-Masto
United States Senator



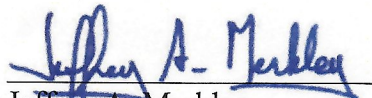
Mitt Romney
United States Senator



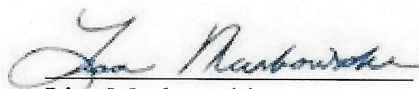
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator