

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

President Donald J. Trump
What Remains of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

October 30, 2025

Dear President Trump,

We are writing to urge you to provide us immediately with additional information about your decision to demolish the East Wing of the White House for construction of your new 90,000 square foot ballroom. This demolition likely violates the White House Preservation Act and denies the public access to the “People’s House.” We urge you to stop this reckless vanity project at least until you demonstrate how it complies with federal law.

The White House Preservation Act, enacted in 1961, governs the care and preservation of the White House and its contents. This Act requires the preservation of any “historic” or “artistic” property, including furniture, fixtures, and decorative objects, for the American public. The Act also clearly directs the current President to transfer any historic and artistic items that are not currently being used to the Smithsonian Institution for its “care, study, and storage or exhibition.”

According to public reporting, while some elements of the original Office of the First Lady were preserved and stored under the supervision of the White House Executive Residence and the National Park Service, other elements of the East Wing—including offices used by the First Lady’s staff, the military office, as well as a key entrance where the public arrives for tours and receptions—have been reduced to nothing but a pile of debris and rubble. The White House Preservation Act protects not just the preservation of “furniture” and “decorative objects” but all the historic elements of the White House, which include “fixtures” of the space. At this time, neither Congress nor the over 300 million Americans who actually own the White House are aware of what you have done to safeguard the objects in the East Wing that hold cultural and historic significance to the country. We are especially troubled because you have a history of demolishing historic property without notice or consent. To clear the site for your Trump Tower in New York, you destroyed two historically significant friezes that you promised to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

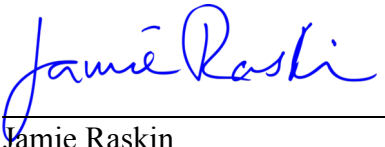
Meantime, White House tours, long a fixture of Americans’ visits to our nation’s Capital, have been cancelled since September as your curated group of Washington insiders prepared the East Wing for its eventual demise. Until September of this year, the White House’s East Wing welcomed 10,000 people per week, serving as a living testament to the fact that our government belongs to the people and our shared history belongs to everyone.

We urge you to immediately cease your demolition of the White House, and we demand a detailed explanation of the process you used to conduct your demolition operation to date. Please send written responses to the following questions by no later than November 6, 2025.

1. Please provide an inventory of all objects of historic significance in the East Wing prior to August 31, 2025 and the location of all such objects for the duration of this demolition.
2. Please outline the actions that your staff has taken to transfer these objects to the custody of the Smithsonian as required by law.
3. Please provide all documents and communications pertaining the decision to cancel all White House tours beginning on September 1, 2025.
4. Please provide a timeline of when the White House will resume tours and make itself available to the public.

The White House belongs to all Americans, not one president or family. We oppose you taking a wrecking ball to your temporary residence without advising its over 300 million owners. You are the temporary occupant and steward of this structure, just like every American President since John Adams has been. You are moving forward to demolish the White House and build an extravagant and wasteful ballroom during a government shutdown while Americans face a serious health care crisis. As costs skyrocket across the country, we urge you to halt this vanity project that is razing a treasured part of our national heritage.

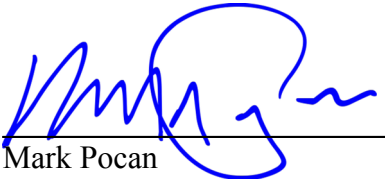
Sincerely,



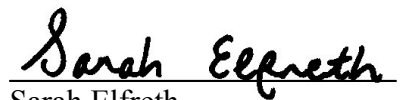
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



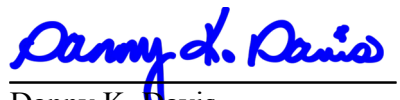
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



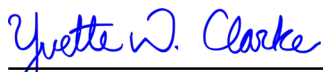
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



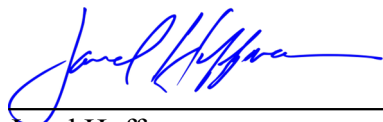
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



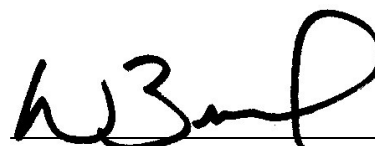
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



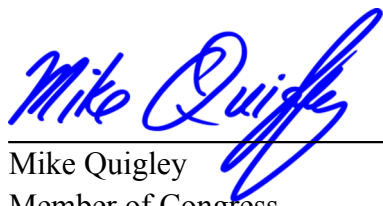
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



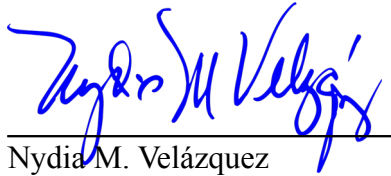
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



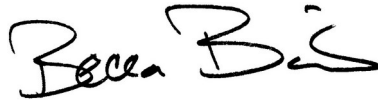
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



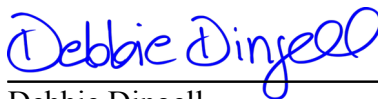
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



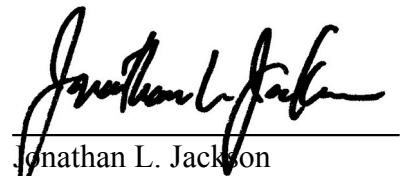
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



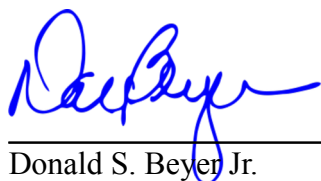
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



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



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



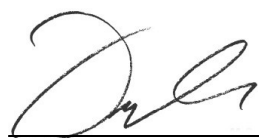
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



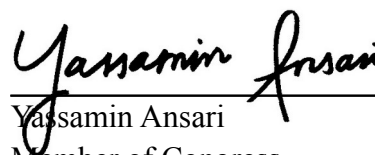
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



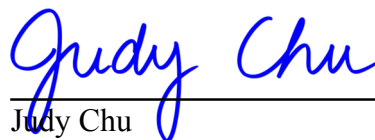
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



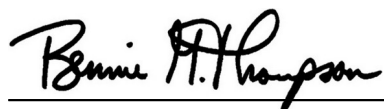
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



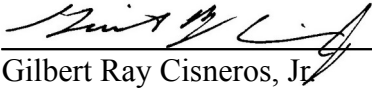
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



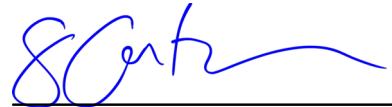
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress