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May 26, 2026

To the Leaders of Corporate America:

The constitutional rights of Black Americans are under direct assault. Across the South, Black political representation is being targeted through aggressive redistricting efforts designed to dilute Black voting strength, silence Black communities, and reverse decades of hard-fought progress secured through the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Five years ago, more than 150 companies publicly declared that democracy and equal access to the ballot were fundamental American values. In a letter to Congress, businesses across the United States called for strengthening the Voting Rights Act to “prevent voting discrimination” and ensure that “voters of color who remain the targets of voter suppression have equal and unfettered access to the democratic process.”

Many corporations spoke clearly during that moment about the importance of protecting democratic participation, defending civil rights, and advancing racial equity. Today, those commitments are being tested.

For those companies that previously chose to speak, this moment demands continued courage and consistency. For those that did not, this is a defining opportunity to stand on the right side of history.

Free and fair elections are not separate from economic stability or corporate success. Strong governance depends on representative democracy, public trust, and equal participation in our political system. When voting rights are weakened and entire communities are systematically denied fair representation, the legitimacy and stability of the institutions that underpin our economy are weakened as well.

For more than a decade, the United States Supreme Court has systematically weakened the Voting Rights Act — from *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013 to the devastating *Louisiana v. Callais* ruling in 2026. With Section 2 effectively dismantled, states now have a green light to redraw congressional maps, dilute Black representation, and erode the political power of Black communities with little federal protection remaining.

Immediately following the Court’s ruling, Republican-led legislatures and Governors wasted no time advancing new maps and electoral schemes designed to reduce Black political power ahead of upcoming elections.

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These actions are not routine political exercises. They are coordinated efforts to silence Black voices at the ballot box and strip communities of meaningful representation in American democracy.

The consequences of this democratic erosion extend far beyond politics. When communities lose meaningful political representation, they also lose equitable access to resources, infrastructure, healthcare, education, environmental protections, economic investment, and public safety. The health and long-term stability of Black communities are directly tied to whether those communities have a meaningful voice in the decisions that shape their daily lives.

Silence in this moment is not neutrality. It is complicity.

Many companies that previously issued statements after the murder of George Floyd, pledged billions toward racial equity initiatives, and spoke forcefully in defense of democracy following January 6 now face a defining test of whether those commitments were rooted in principle or convenience.

Corporate leaders also have a fiduciary and reputational responsibility to recognize that attacks on democracy create long-term instability that can directly impact shareholder confidence, workforce morale, consumer trust, and enterprise value. Increasingly, shareholders, employees, and investors expect companies to demonstrate consistency between their stated values and their public actions — particularly during moments of national consequence.

Black Americans are not merely stakeholders in democracy — we are consumers, workers, entrepreneurs, creators, and drivers of the American economy. Our labor has helped build this country. Our dollars fuel industries across every sector. And our purchasing power shapes the success or failure of brands every single day. Consumers are increasingly making decisions based not only on products and services, but on whether companies demonstrate integrity, consistency, and courage during defining moments in American life. Public trust and consumer confidence are difficult to earn and easy to lose. Communities across this country are paying attention to which corporations are willing to defend democratic principles when doing so carries real weight and consequence. Our culture shapes global markets and defines American influence around the world. The same corporations that have benefited from Black consumers, Black talent, and Black communities cannot now retreat into silence while Black political power is openly dismantled in plain sight.

Protecting democracy is a shared responsibility. The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to use every legislative, political, and moral tool available to defend voting rights and Black political representation. But this moment requires courage and clarity from every institution that has previously claimed to value democracy, racial equity, and equal justice under the law.

We are calling on Corporate America to publicly reaffirm its commitment to voting rights and equal representation by:

- Issuing an individual or joint public statement condemning efforts to dilute Black voting strength and dismantle the protections of the Voting Rights Act;
- Reporting on corporate political spending, contributions, and relationships connected to elected officials, organizations, and efforts advancing discriminatory redistricting schemes or attacks on voting rights;

- Accepting an invitation from the Congressional Black Caucus to participate in a national convening alongside civil rights leaders, advocates, and movement organizations to discuss the urgent defense of voting rights and Black political power in America.

We are requesting a response from corporations no later than June 9th, 2026, two weeks from the date this letter was sent.


This is not a moment for carefully crafted silence or private concern. This is a moment that demands moral clarity and public action. Consumers, employees, shareholders, and communities across the country are paying close attention to who will stand up in defense of democracy and who will remain silent while Black political power is dismantled in real time.

History will remember this moment. It will remember who stood in defense of democracy — and who chose silence while the rights of Black Americans were rolled back in plain sight.

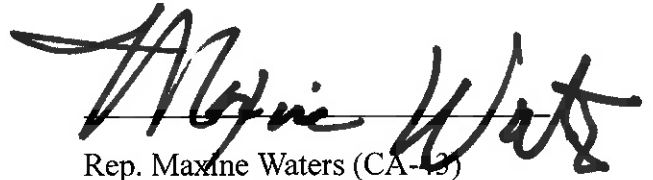
Sincerely,



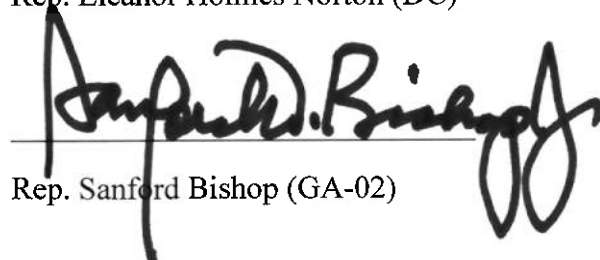
U.S. Representative Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus



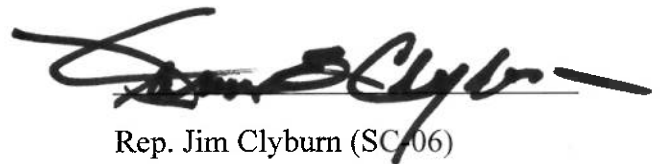
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)



Rep. Maxine Waters (CA-43)



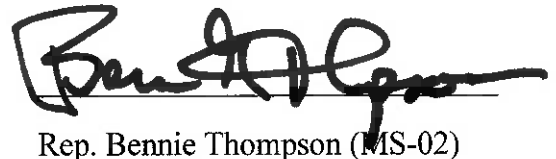
Rep. Sanford Bishop (GA-02)



Rep. Jim Clyburn (SC-06)



Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-03)



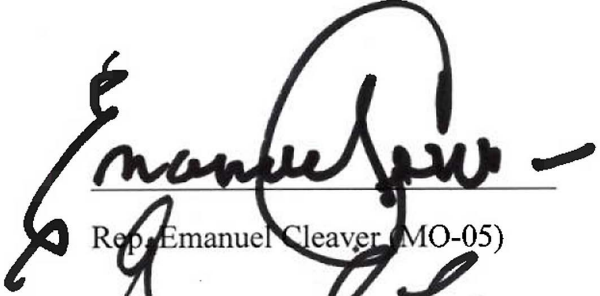
Rep. Bennie Thompson (MS-02)



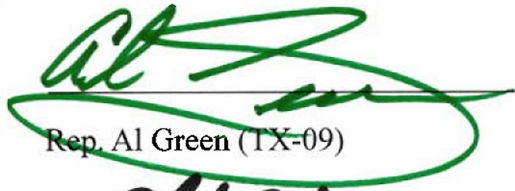
Rep. Danny Davis (IL-07)



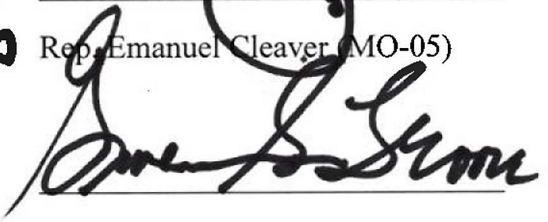
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Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05)



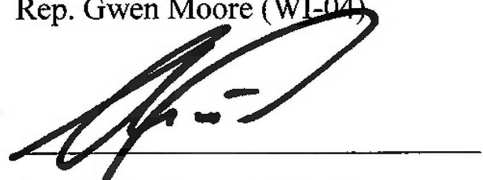
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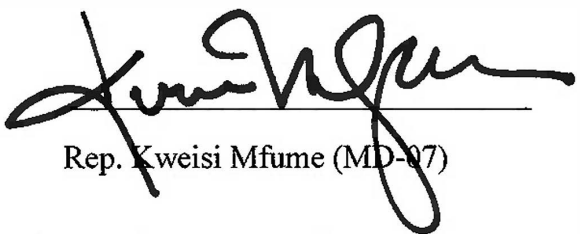
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Rep. Hank Johnson (GA-04)



Rep. Andre Carson (IN-07)



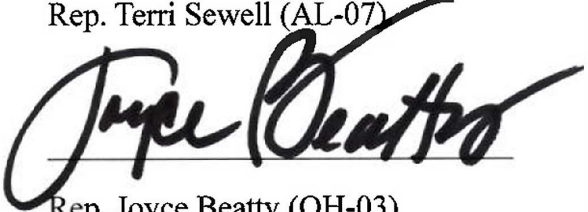
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Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07)



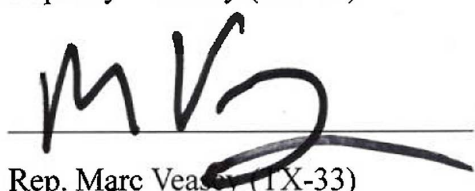
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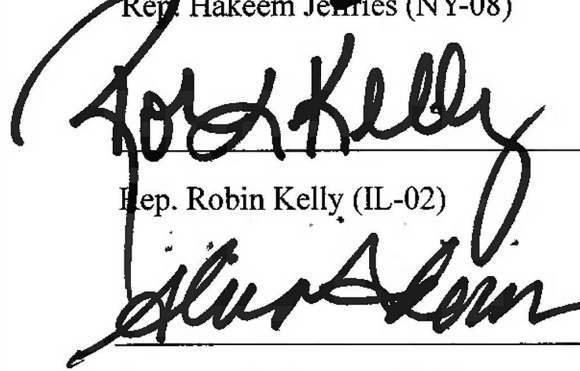
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Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)



Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33)



Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-02)

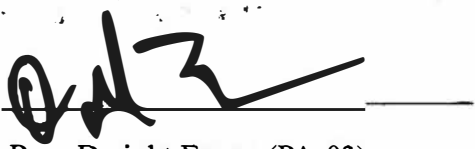
Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12)



Rep. Stacey Plaskett (VI)



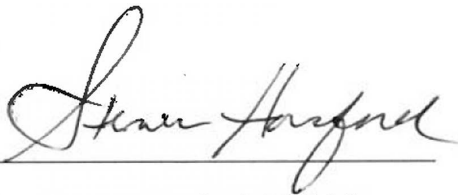
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Rep. Dwight Evans (PA-03)



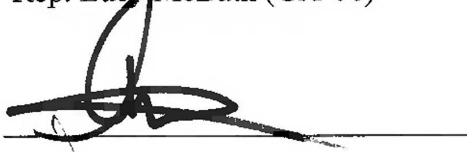
Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)



Rep. Steven Horsford (NV-04)



Rep. Lucy McBath (GA-06)



Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN-05)



Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14)



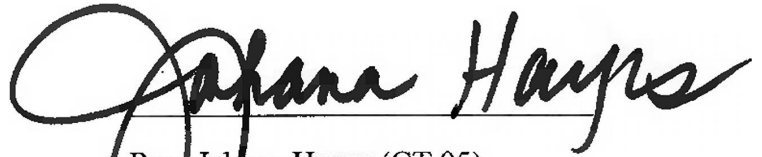
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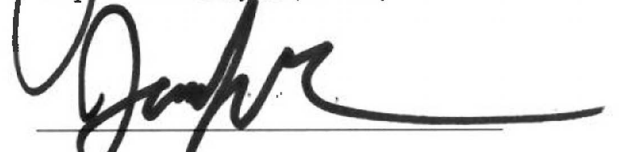
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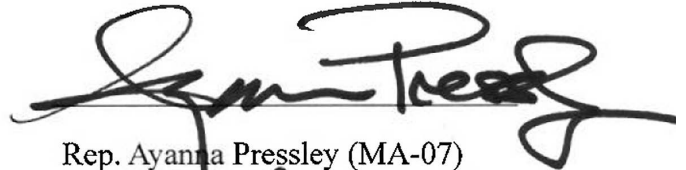
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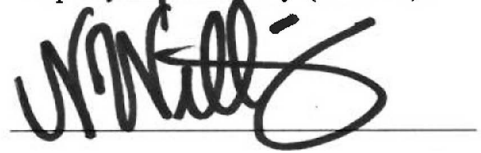
Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT-05)



Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-02)



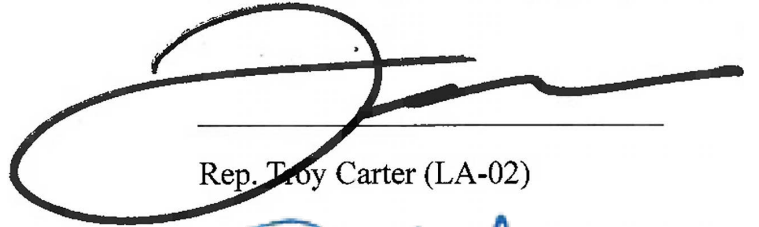
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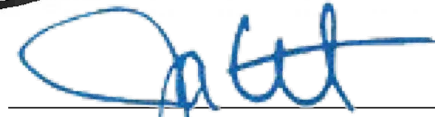
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Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10)



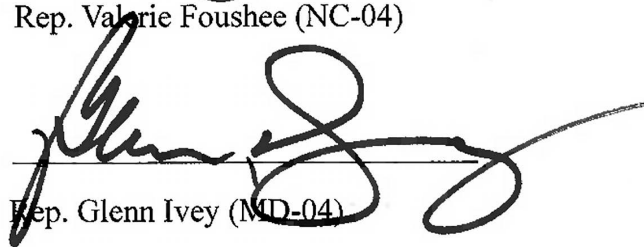
Rep. Troy Carter (LA-02)



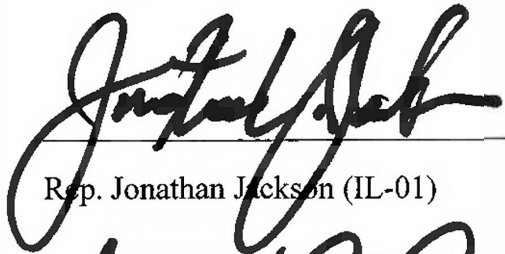
Rep. Jasmine Crockett (TX-30)



Rep. Valorie Foushee (NC-04)



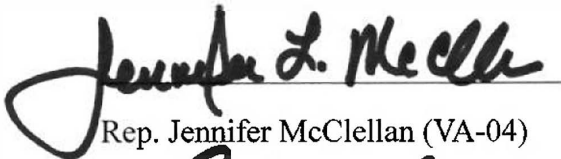
Rep. Glenn Ivey (MD-04)



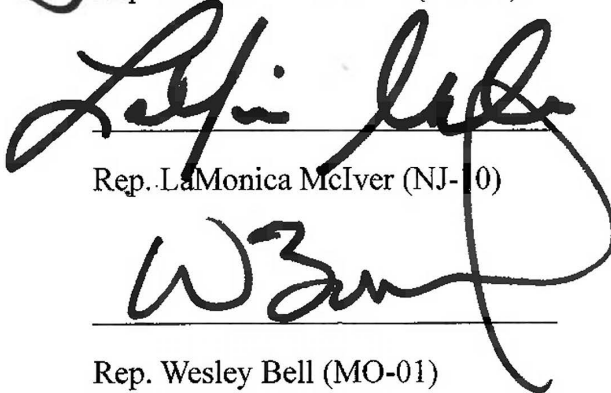
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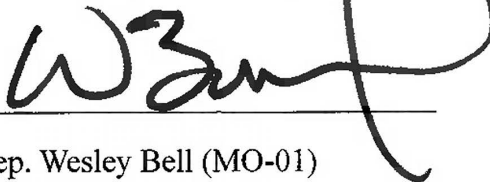
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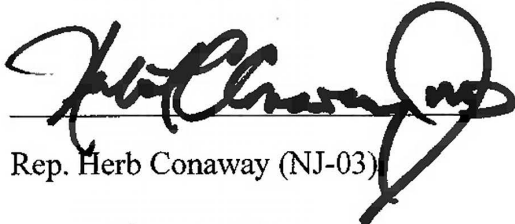
Rep. Jennifer McClellan (VA-04)



Rep. LaMonica McIver (NJ-10)



Rep. Wesley Bell (MO-01)



Rep. Herb Conaway (NJ-03)



Rep. Shanari Figures (AL-02)



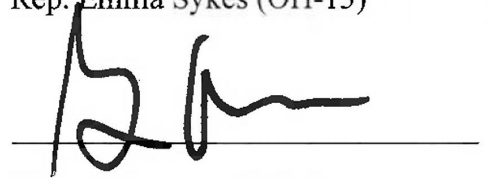
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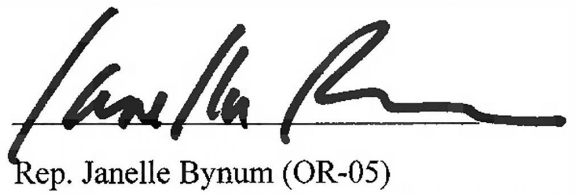
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Rep. Emilia Sykes (OH-13)



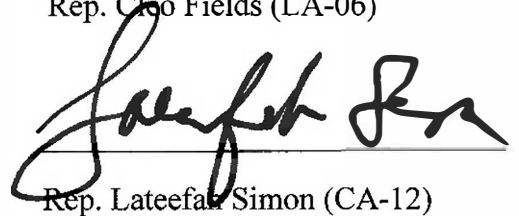
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Rep. Janelle Bynum (OR-05)



Rep. Cleo Fields (LA-06)



Rep. Lateefah Simon (CA-12)

For follow-up regarding this letter, please contact:

Vincent Evans

Executive Director

Congressional Black Caucus

vincent.evans@mail.house.gov/info.blackcaucus@mail.house.gov