

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to applaud your recent decision to remove the Architect of the Capitol, J. Brett Blanton and request that you seize this opportunity to select a new Architect of the Capitol who will consider safety in the United States Capitol among their highest priorities. It is imperative that the next Architect of the Capitol be mindful of threats from both outside and inside the Capitol complex and enforce rules barring Members of Congress from carrying firearms.

As you know, the Architect of the Capitol is one of three members of the Capitol Police Board, along with the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms. The Board is responsible for the design, installation, and maintenance of security systems for the Capitol buildings and grounds, including regulating the ability of Members of Congress to carry firearms on their person, and to store them in their offices.

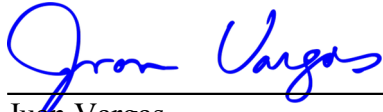
The new House Republican Majority has put the safety and security of the House Chamber, the very seat of American Democracy, at risk to infiltration and violence with reckless, politically-motivated changes to rules governing safety in the chamber. In the wake of the violent insurrection of January 6, an attempt by a Member of Congress to bring a concealed weapon on to the House Floor, and other Members vowing to do so despite existing rules, we know from experience that the House is not free from the threat of workplace violence. Considering the ability of Members of Congress to carry firearms in the capitol complex outside the House Floor, removal of magnetometers from the entrances to the House Floor, and record threats against the lives of Members of Congress, the new Architect of the Capitol will have an important role in providing a safe working environment.

We urge you to consider a candidate for the important role of Architect of the Capitol who will commit to greater safety in the U.S. House, and the entire Capitol complex. Their 10-year term provides an opportunity to prioritize safety in the Capitol Complex and ensure that the public can safely see their government at work, and that Members and staff can work without fear of threats to their physical safety.

Sincerely,



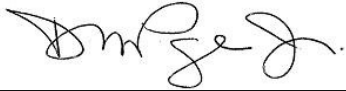
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



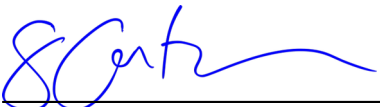
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress