

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
US Capitol, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Pelosi:

As you run for Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 116th Congress, we write to strongly encourage you to embrace substantive changes to the rules of the House of Representatives to bring more transparency to the legislative process, encourage more consideration of bipartisan legislation, and, ideally, restore public trust in the institution.

In our districts, we regularly hear more about the dysfunction in Washington than just about anything else. Our constituents want results. They have had enough of the polarization and gamesmanship. They have had enough partisan gridlock overpowering thoughtful debate and pragmatic solutions. They have had enough of legislation being rushed to the floor without a committee hearing, and they are frustrated when legislation with broad, bipartisan support never gets a hearing or even a debate or floor vote. Our constituents and our democracy deserve better. Put simply, they want us to govern again.

We know it is not in the best interest of our nation for the House to operate in the same hyper-partisan manner that it did in the 115th Congress, where extremists prevented common sense, bipartisan proposals on health care, immigration reform, infrastructure, and too many others, from reaching the floor. We also recognize, as you do, that we can't follow the same one-sided path the Republican leadership took these last years, bowing to the whim of a few obstructionists.

That is why, last July, we joined with fellow Democrats and Republicans and introduced a 36-member backed "Break the Gridlock" reform package. When implemented, this set of bipartisan rules changes will reward openness and transparency, encourage bipartisan lawmaking, spur debate on important issues, and empower lawmakers to find real solutions to address our nation's greatest challenges. We believe so strongly in these principles that many of us, this summer, publicly committed only to vote for a candidate for Speaker who embraces the spirit, direction, and specific language of these proposals.

We appreciate the attention you, your team, and the Rules Committee have afforded our proposal since we first passed the "Break the Gridlock" package this summer. Given our rapidly approaching Caucus meeting after Thanksgiving, and your familiarity with our proposal, we are eager to have your written, public commitment to the package of reforms by Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Of course, given your prominent voice, we would also

appreciate your leadership supporting the reforms within the Caucus, as we head to a vote on the Rules Package in January.

In this period of divided government, Congress must work for the American people. Passing bipartisan legislation not only increases the likelihood of passage in the Republican-controlled Senate, but it also shows the American people Democrats are willing to put good public policy over partisan games and get results for the people.

We look forward to engaging directly with you in the days ahead about how we can truly break the gridlock in Congress and make this body representative of our great nation.

Sincerely,



Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01)  
Member of Congress



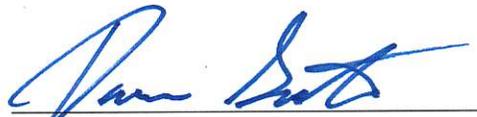
Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR-05)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Daniel Lipinski (IL-03)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Darren Soto (FL-09)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Stephanie N. Murphy (FL-07)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Thomas R. Suozzi (NY-03)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15)  
Member of Congress