

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

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Pete Sessions  
Chairman  
House Committee on Rules  
H-312 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James McGovern  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Rules  
H-312 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member McGovern:

The Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform will conclude its work this fall and we are hopeful that it will produce meaningful changes to the budget process. Chairman Sessions, we appreciate your service on the committee. The hearings served as a valuable education for members and their constituents.

The work of the committee, however, should be just beginning, not ending. There is so much more to do, not only in the critical budget and appropriations processes, but in the realm of authorizations, congressional oversight, and relations between the houses of Congress and between the Legislative and Executive branches. Efforts to reform Congress must continue in order to rebuild public confidence in this institution and in the Members who serve in it.

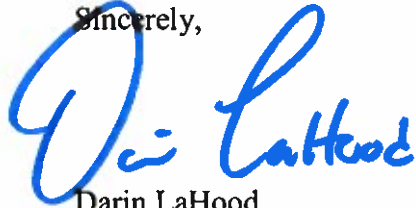
For these reasons, we write to you as the lead sponsors of H.Con. Res. 28 to urge you to include the creation of a new joint committee in the rules package for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. With 66 bipartisan cosponsors, H. Con Res. 28 would provide for the creation of a Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, a forum for the holistic examination of the rules and procedures essential to effective legislating and political leadership for the country. The joint committee would be composed of an equal number from each party and from each chamber. This body would be charged with a mandate to hold up a magnifying glass and a stethoscope to the institution of Congress and to propose comprehensive reforms to make the institution more efficient, effective, and accountable to taxpayers. Importantly, joint committees have been utilized in the past and have a proven record of success.

The joint committee would first evaluate the legislative rules and procedures that control how Congress functions. Second, it would seek to empower Members to participate in the legislative process, debate issues, compromise, introduce amendments and get laws enacted. Finally, the joint committee would focus on restoring three important relationships: the relationship between us as Members of Congress and our constituents, the relationship between the House and the Senate, and the relationship between the Legislative and the Executive branches.

With the start of each new Congress, we look to improve our processes. The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress provides an opportunity, for the first time in over 30 years, to conduct a comprehensive

review of the institution to enable us to meet the needs of the American people. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress