

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We write today to request that you cease all proxy voting measures and all remote committee proceedings in the House of Representatives for the remainder of the 117th Congress. It is time we follow the science, lead by example, and fully return to work to serve the American people. More than 272 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered¹ and at least 75 percent of members of Congress have been fully vaccinated,² with all members and congressional staff having access to the vaccine. Most recently, on May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance that recommends “fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting.”³ Additionally, the Office of the Attending Physician (OAP) has issued guidance that fully vaccinated members and staff “can resume activities that [they] did prior to the pandemic.” Ineffective remote procedures have hindered Congressional operations for too long and should not continue for the duration of the 117th Congress.

On May 15, 2020, the House of Representatives passed a resolution to allow proxy voting and remote committee proceedings. All members of the Republican party and even three Democrats voted against this measure; however, since its passage and continuation in the House Rules for the 117th Congress, members have voted by proxy countless times and no fully in-person public committee meetings have occurred. The flawed system of proxy voting and extended vote times has led to exorbitant delays on the House floor. In addition, burdensome virtual committee hearings permeated with technical difficulties have failed to deliver timely debate and quality legislation on behalf of the American people. While we appreciate that the COVID-19 crisis yielded unprecedented circumstances, there is simply no scientific or public health need to continue entertaining these restrictive practices. We have accomplished an incredible milestone in defeating the virus, now we must serve as a model for our nation to restore, rebuild, renew, and *resume* America.

Specifically, we request you conduct the following:

- Bring to the House floor legislation that strikes Section 3(s) of H.Res. 8, which allows for proxy voting and remote procedures in the 117th Congress, or otherwise revoke the current covered period;
- Instruct the Committee on House Administration to develop guidance for members, staff, and committees to resume full, in-person procedures; and
- Encourage all members and staff to follow guidance from OAP and fully resume all pre-pandemic activities.

¹ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

² <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/pelosi-34-house-members-received-covid-19-vaccine/story?id=77399652>

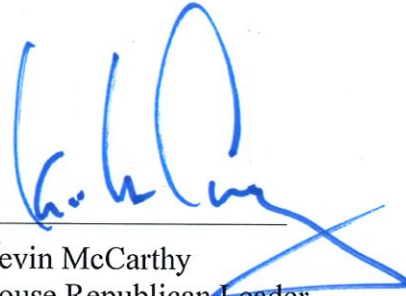
³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Thank you for your attention on this important matter, and we look forward to having Congress return to its most effective practice with in-person voting and committee procedures.

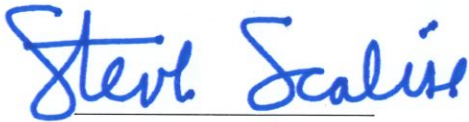
Sincerely,



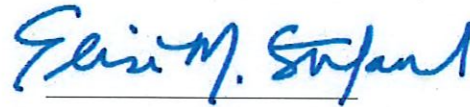
Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources



Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Steve Scalise
House Republican Whip



Elise Stefanik
House Republican Conference Chair



Mike Johnson
House Republican Conference Vice Chair



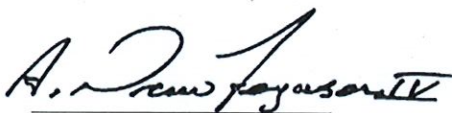
Gary Palmer
House Republican Policy Committee Chair



Tom Emmer
National Republican Congressional Committee Chair



Richard Hudson
House Republican Conference Secretary



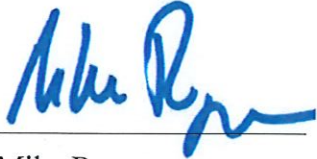
A. Drew Ferguson, IV
House Republican Chief Deputy Whip



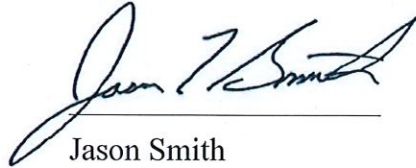
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture



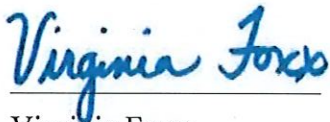
Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriation



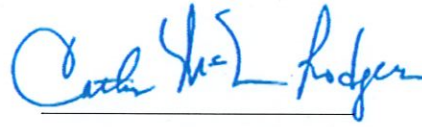
Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee



Jason Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Budget



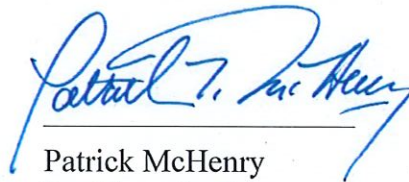
Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and Labor



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ethics



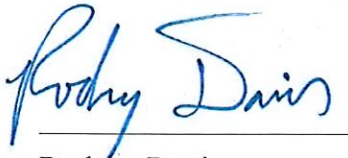
Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
House Committee on Financial Services



Michael McCaul
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



John Katko
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



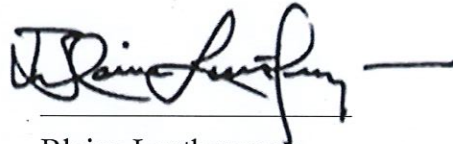
James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform



Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Committee on Rules



Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology



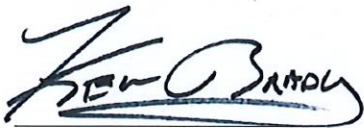
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business



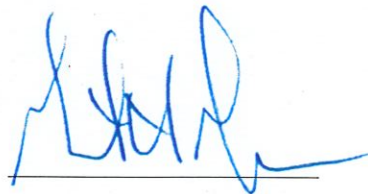
Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure



Mike Bost
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans Affairs



Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means



Garret Graves
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

William R Timmons IV

William R. Timmons, IV
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the
Modernization of Congress

Devin Nunes

Devin Nunes
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence