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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2803

COMMITTEE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES

November 21, 2022

Dear Colleague:

As we discuss and consider changes to our Democratic Caucus leadership structure for the 118th Congress – such as proposed leadership structure changes to the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC) – we write today to propose a potential amendment to the Democratic Caucus Rules creating a Battleground Leadership Representative position among our Democratic Caucus leadership. The Battleground Leadership Representative would be elected by returning Frontliners and incoming Red to Blue Members from the just completed cycle, when a quorum of their membership is present and voting.

Hailing from the most competitive districts across the country, Democratic Frontline Members and Red to Blue candidates – collectively known as Battlegrounders – are responsible for winning the toughest races across the nation. Each election cycle, the House majority hinges on the performance of these Battlegrounders in defending and flipping the most competitive districts; in 2018 Democrats took back our majority thanks to Battlegrounders, in 2020 Battlegrounders held the line to retain our majority, and in 2022 Battlegrounders delivered the best midterm results a president's party has experienced in 20 years.

Because Battleground Members must be relentlessly focused on winning their seats to fight for our Caucus majority, they are rarely able to prioritize investing the time and resources it takes to launch a Caucus leadership bid. They have unique, first-hand experience winning in the most competitive districts across the country, yet they do not have direct representation in our current Caucus leadership structure. For our Caucus to be best positioned to compete cycle-after-cycle, win in the most competitive districts across the country, and ultimately regain and maintain a majority, our Caucus needs the direct Battleground Member perspective in the room where our Caucus agenda is steered and where key decisions are made.

In addition to being the voice of Battlegrounders at the Caucus leadership table, the Battleground Leadership Representative would also play a key role in mentoring new Battleground Members and providing resources for Battleground offices throughout the term – supporting our Caucus's most vulnerable members each Congress, and bolstering our Caucus's readiness heading into each election cycle.

For the future of our Caucus, we need the very Members responsible for defending, winning, and expanding our majority each cycle to have a direct seat at the leadership table. We can achieve this common goal and strengthen our Caucus by creating a Battleground Leadership Representative position. We look forward to discussing this proposal at the upcoming Caucus meetings.

Respectfully,