

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Chair, U.S. Committee of Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
Ranking Member, U.S. Committee of Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Chair McConnell and Ranking Member Padilla:

We write to express our concerns with the Hart Area Renewal Project (HARP), as currently planned, and its impact to the Hart Senate Office Building (“Hart”) over the course of the next five years. To remedy the current, unacceptable situation, we request that Phases I and II be paused until 1) the streets adjacent to Hart are secured and closed to through traffic, and the project re-evaluated in light of the closure, and 2) alternative, usable locations for all impacted spaces in Senators’ personal offices are identified.

Ensuring the safety and security of Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and visitors to Congressional buildings is extremely important to each of us. To that end, we appreciate the efforts that the Senate Sergeant at Arms (SAA) initiated following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, to determine necessary steps to better ensure the safety and security of Senators and Senate staff, visitors, and buildings, including Hart. Given these shared goals, it is of utmost importance that HARP is pursued thoughtfully, with necessary information provided to all impacted Senators in a timely manner, and with adequate preparation to address the impacts of the project on the functioning of the United States Senate.

We understand that the need for HARP was determined assuming that the streets directly adjacent to Hart remain open to public through traffic. Controlling vehicle access to Second Street NE and Constitution Avenue is a cost-effective and immediate action which would improve security and safety for all those who work in or visit Hart. Therefore, we ask that SAA and Rules Committee consider securing and closing, or at a minimum, restricting access to Second Street and Constitution Avenue prior to the displacement of Senators' personal offices. We further ask that a thorough re-evaluation of the security needs underlying HARP be conducted in light of such closures. This would not only reduce disruption to offices but would also address immediate and viable security risks posed by the proximity of public vehicle traffic to the Hart building.

Additionally, we are concerned that Phases I and II of HARP are being pursued without adequate preparation to address their very real impacts on the functioning of the United States Senate. In affected offices alone, Phase I will displace or impact between three and 30 workstations per office. At present, offices have not been provided adequate alternative, additional space to accommodate the displaced workstations to ensure uninterrupted office functions. Without adequate alternative space, Phase I will cause significant disruptions in our ability to carry out work for our constituents for the duration of the disruption, currently estimated to last 20 to 24 months per phase. These are significant intangible costs that must be appropriately mitigated prior to initiating Phase I.

Furthermore, we understand that additional funding or the authorization to reallocate existing funding will be required to address and lessen the impacts to offices resulting from HARP. Given these realities, a thoughtful, Senate-wide approach to reallocation of space is required to ensure that all Senators are given a minimum level of support. Specifically, we encourage you to look at spaces currently assigned to members in Conference and Caucus leadership positions and under Rules Committee jurisdiction to identify space that can be temporarily offered to offices impacted in Phase I and II, as needed, for the duration of HARP.

Finally, we are concerned by the way in which Phase I has been rolled out. Despite Phase I slated to begin in about a month, many impacted offices still have not been notified or remain unaware of the extent to which they will be impacted. Similarly, offices to be impacted by Phase II also lack sufficient information on HARP. Notably, no offices were made aware of HARP and its impacts prior to Suite Selection. As a result, many Senators undertook time- and labor-intensive office moves and remodels without any knowledge that they would immediately lose partial use of and, in some cases, significant access to those office spaces due to HARP.

We share your commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and visitors to the Congressional buildings, and would welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

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Markwayne Mullin  
Chair, Legislative Branch Subcommittee  
of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senator

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Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member, Legislative Branch  
Subcommittee  
of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senator