

**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 117<sup>th</sup> 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 administered<sup>1</sup> and at least 75 percent of members of Congress have been fully vaccinated,<sup>2</sup> 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.”<sup>3</sup> 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 117<sup>th</sup> 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 117<sup>th</sup> 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 117<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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

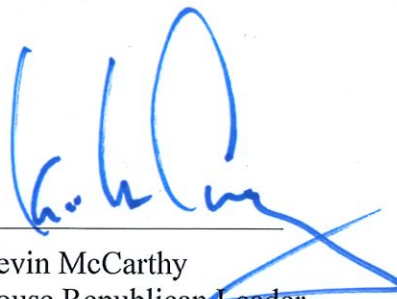
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

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,



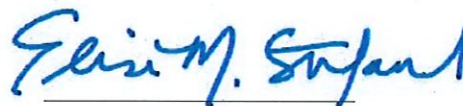
Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources



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

/s/

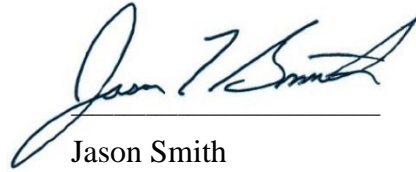
Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture



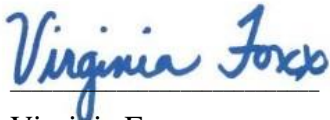
Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriation



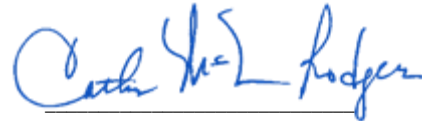
Mike Rogers  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee



Jason Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Budget



Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and Labor



Cathy McMorris Rogers  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce




Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ethics



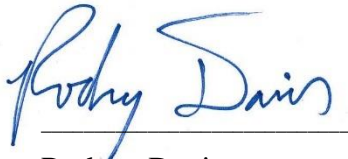
Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means



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



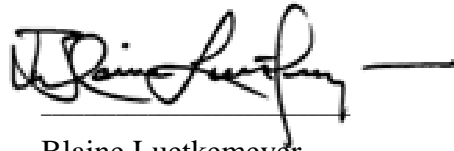
James Comer  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight and Reform



Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Rules



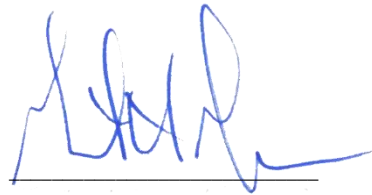
Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Small Business



Mike Bost  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Veterans Affairs



Garret Graves  
Ranking Member  
House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis



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

/s/

Devin Nunes  
Ranking Member  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence