

JIM GERLACH

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3806**

June 19, 2008

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Republican Whip  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Putman  
Republican Conference Chairman  
1420 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Chief Deputy Republican Whip  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear John, Roy, Adam and Eric:

As our House Republican Conference continues to discuss and coalesce around policy issues that will help us earn the House majority in the next Congress, I am writing to offer one other policy initiative that I think should be an integral part of our Conference's "Earning Back the Majority" agenda.

Having one of the most competitive Congressional districts in the country, I have had an opportunity to talk to a lot of Republican, Democrat and Independent constituents about their frustrations with Congress' inability to achieve common sense solutions to the everyday problems that they face. They believe, as I am sure your constituents do, that members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, ought to go to Washington, D.C. work with their colleagues in both parties and arrive at practical, doable solutions for the major issues that our nation faces. Unfortunately, for far too many years, there has been an excess of partisanship in the legislative process that, in turn, has led to the inability to achieve fundamental reforms and successes on everything from energy independence to entitlement reform to national security issues. So as Presidential and Congressional candidates continue to beat the drum of "change" during this year, I believe a basic "change" that the American people want is simply for Republicans and Democrats to work together to accomplish legislative solutions in these areas.

To do so, it's likewise clear to me that we need fundamental reform of the legislative process in Congress so that all members, regardless of party affiliation or seniority, have an ability to impact legislation as it moves through committee and the Floor and otherwise maximize opportunities for each Member to exercise his and her legislative responsibilities. By offering bi-partisan opportunities to legislate the final outcome of bills, I believe that we would achieve a broader consensus on major bills and more

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closely reflect the will of the American people and not the narrow ideologies of certain interest groups.

Consequently, I hope you will think about adding to our Conference agenda the pledge and commitment that, when provided the opportunity to again be in the majority, we will immediately undertake real reforms to foster bi-partisan cooperation. The first step should be to empower a bi-partisan working group in the House to comprehensively review current House Rules and offer suggestions for reforming those rules to maximize all Members' opportunities in committee and on the Floor to contribute to the final work product of the House. These bi-partisan reforms should include committee makeup, hearing processes, notification for committee and Floor votes, use of closed rules, etc. In other words, we must achieve real change in how the House works on a daily basis.

Again, I believe the "change" that Americans most want is for us to simply work together as Republicans and Democrats to achieve good, sound, common sense public policy. Our House Republican Conference should be at the forefront of advocating such an approach and, thereby, demonstrating to the American people that we understand their frustration with a broken Congress, have learned from our mistakes, will be the leaders that make sure that the next Congress works.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this suggestion. Thank you very much for your leadership!

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gerlach", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Jim Gerlach  
Member of Congress

JG:kg