

DEREK KILMER
6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4706

OFFICES:
1520 LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5916

950 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 1230
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 272-3515

345 6TH STREET
SUITE 500
BREMERTON, WA 98337
(360) 373-9725
www.kilmer.house.gov

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Karen Bass
Chair, Committee on Organization, Study, and Review
408 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Bass,

Thank you for your work to take input from Members regarding potential changes to our Caucus Rules. I appreciate the work you are doing to ensure that our Caucus is well run, effective, and provides opportunities for every Member to contribute towards our shared goals.

I have only served one full term, but in that time I have observed that some of our newer members have incredible energy, dedication to public service, and an interest in playing a more active role in helping our Caucus. Below are some ideas that I believe would help harness that energy that would benefit all of our Members:

- Vice-Chairs and Vice-Ranking Members: Each Committee should elect a member to serve as Vice-Chair or Vice-Ranking Member. The individual chosen should be in his or her first or second term serving on the Committee, and the position should be term limited to a single term.
 - Portfolio: The Vice-Chair or Vice-Ranking Member should be given particular responsibility for member services, messaging, and outreach.
 - Staff: The position should come with some staff resources, to ensure that the Vice-Chair or Vice-Ranking Member has the ability to execute his or her responsibilities.
 - Weekly Chair/Ranking Member Meeting: The Vice-Chair or Vice-Ranking Member should be invited to attend weekly meetings with leadership to ensure junior members have a full understanding of legislation coming to the floor and an opportunity to provide their views.
- Leadership Meetings: There are currently no rules dictating when leadership meets, what their agenda is, and who is invited.
 - Formalized Meetings: Caucus Rules should be amended to formalize weekly leadership meetings to discuss floor activity, messaging, and other issues.
 - Attendees: The elected Freshman Class President should be invited to attend each weekly meeting, as well as two other members of the caucus on a rotating basis.

Thank you once again for your work on behalf of our Caucus. If you have any questions about these ideas or would like to discuss them further please contact me directly or have your staff follow up with Jonathan Smith in my office at 202-225-5916.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer