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

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Dear Colleague,

Congratulations on winning your election!

Probably the most common question I've gotten in recent years has been: "Why would you want to be in Congress when it's such a mess and you have two little girls?" I've always given the same answer – because it's a mess and I have two little girls! I care about what country my kids grow up in, and I don't want their future dictated by a completely messed up government. That's why, six years ago, I chose to join the New Democrat Coalition. New Dems are focused on getting a government and an economy that works better for everybody, and on building a brighter future for all our kids.

Americans sent a clear message on Election Day that the status quo isn't working, and as Democrats take the majority in the House of Representatives for the first time in eight years, we have to listen. With New Democrat-endorsed candidates accounting for 22 of the 29 seats that turned from red to blue – and more to come – Americans also sent the message they are looking for civility and pragmatic solutions in Congress. New Democrats were the majority makers, and we must lead by example.

New Democrats are well-positioned to effect real change in the 116th Congress, and I write today to ask for your support to lead the New Democrat Coalition as Chair. With the Democrats now in the majority in the House, the New Dems have a unique opportunity to exert significant influence on the House's overall legislative agenda. Effectively shaping that agenda will require leadership that balances open communication, strong coalition-building, and strategic thinking. These are qualities that I believe I would bring to the table as Chair.

It has always been my belief that to be a strong leader, one must go above and beyond what is expected – and, in every role I have held within the New Dems, I've sought to do just that. As New Dem PAC Chair in the 2016 cycle, I increased the amount of money raised by New Dems by more than \$1 million over the previous cycle, to nearly \$4 million total; and I increased the amount of money turned over directly to candidates, which allowed us to triple the number of individual campaigns supported. As Vice Chair for Policy in this Congress, I oversaw the restructuring of the Task Forces into a more focused system where each group engaged on specific policy areas of interest to the members, and produced white papers, reports, hearings, and legislation. I also led the planning and organization of the first annual New Dem policy conference, setting the stage for larger events to highlight pragmatic, pro-growth policies.

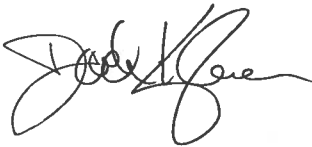
As Chair, I would look forward to:

- Highlighting legislation authored by New Dems and working to see that those bills move through the Committee process and to the House floor.
- Maintaining an open line of communication with Democratic leadership to guarantee that the New Dem voice is reflected in their decisions, and that ideas and concerns with pending legislation are raised well before a vote is scheduled.
- More effectively leveraging the New Dem Coalition's size by actively developing consensus New Dem positions on major issues and bills that come before the House.
- Supporting New Democrats in their pursuit of leadership positions on committees and in the House.
- Developing opportunities to introduce newly elected members to key stakeholders, and along with our Vice Chairs, supporting these members through mentorship and other services to ensure their success.
- Building on the success of the first New Dem Policy Conference by holding additional, policy-focused conferences where members can learn about new proposals, engage with pro-growth thought-leaders, and hear from a wide variety of stakeholders.
- Holding regular discussions with the Chair of the DCCC to ensure New Dem incumbents and candidates have the resources they need.

Now that we are in the majority, we must earn the right to stay here. I know that if we work together and stay true to what it means to be a New Democrat, we can build an economy and an America that works for everyone.

I love being a New Dem. As a group, we challenge each other to focus on substance before message – something that has been missing from Congress for far too long. This Coalition has been a source of hope for me, and I am proud to have worked hard on its behalf for the last six years. It would be my honor to lead this Coalition for the next two years, and I humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Kilmer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Derek Kilmer
Vice Chair, New Democrat Coalition