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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3504

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Dear Republican Colleague:

Congratulations on your well-deserved win! I look forward to joining you in Washington next week.

In the meantime, I wanted to share a few thoughts I hope we can discuss soon:

The message of the 2018 election

We can try to put a positive spin on losing the majority. After all, since World War II, the party in power has lost an average of 28 House seats in the first midterm election of a new president.

But let's be honest: With taxes lowered, an economy growing at nearly 4 percent, and a record number of Americans working, we had a compelling narrative to offer the American people. On top of that, our campaign operation had all the fundamentals in place to deliver that winning message. The gains in the Senate certainly point to this fact.

This might be a tough pill to swallow, but I believe that if we'd handled the past two years differently, we would still be the majority party in the House of Representatives.

Part of the headwind our campaigns faced this year was an enthusiasm gap among our Republican base. They are more passionate in their support for the President than for us. They perceive the President as fighting harder for their issues—and, more importantly, they perceive him (and not us) to be a real agent of change in Washington.

In 2016, the American people rejected business as usual by electing an outsider as president. On Tuesday, they reaffirmed that message. Even though they are happy with some of our policy achievements over the past two years, they really wanted us to change how Washington works.

But we didn't. We have largely been conducting "business as usual" for the past two years, and we just paid the price.

Moving forward, the American people (who share our conservative policy goals) still want us to be agents of change. Will we listen?

Running for Republican leader

As the minority party in the House, the top priorities of our conference for the next two years should be to defend the President and to regain the trust of the American people so we can win back the majority and enact good policy.

To do this, we need new leadership. We can't just stay on the same path and expect different results. I am running for Republican leader because I want to lead this effort on behalf of our conference and our party.

Policy goals (DWYSYWD)

Even though the American people share our conservative values, we need to play strategic defense on policy in the minority. We must use our policy fights to protect the gains we've made over the past two years and to set the stage for returning to the majority.

Over the next two years, we will need to make bold, principled stands on policies like:

- promoting limited government and fiscal responsibility
- stopping the expansion of the failed Obamacare program
- protecting the tax reform that sparked our current economic growth
- securing the border
- supporting welfare reform with work requirements for able-bodied adults, and
- defending the Constitution.

We can discuss and come to a conference-wide consensus on specific issues and timing, but our best strategy on where we fight should be driven by the concept of "doing what you said you would do" (DWYSYWD). People are hungry for us to carry their agenda forward. Letting this concept shape our policy agenda will be a great first step in earning back the trust of the American people.

Defending the President

Democrats will all but certainly attempt to thwart the Trump Administration with endless investigations over the next two years. They will likely try to impeach the President as well. Though their impeachment efforts will not succeed, their effort must be met with a valiant defense, which I am prepared to lead.

Process changes

Some think of procedural reforms as "inside baseball" that our constituents don't care about, but I believe the American people are genuinely concerned about the broken process by which Washington really works. They have been waiting for us to reform it for the past two years, but we haven't.

If you're like me, you believe we need reform. Let's finally start making it happen! While we won't control the process in the House for the next two years, we can begin to demonstrate the discipline to do the right thing on decentralizing power, opening up the legislative process and allowing it to work as our Founders intended.

The next two years of Congress and the presidential election of 2020 will define the future of our country. If we are to regain the majority, we cannot continue on the same path.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress