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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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August 26, 2014

The Honorable Richard Nugent
Chairman
Rules Subcommittee on Organization
and Rules of the House
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James McGovern
Ranking Member
Rules Subcommittee on Organization
and Rules of the House
1627 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nugent and Ranking Member McGovern,

As you prepare to draft the standing rules of the House for the 114th Congress, I respectfully request the opportunity to testify before your Subcommittee on a proposal that would benefit relationships among members as well as the integrity of the governing process.

The Restore Democracy legislation (H.Res. 695) I introduced in July provides a blueprint for the direction the Congress should take to change the way we do politics and to restore the American people's confidence in government. My bill includes several provisions relating to the rules of the House. Specifically, the legislation would bring back regular order by requiring every bill to receive an open hearing—debate, amendments, and a formal vote—in committee. In addition, a conference report could not be filed unless it had been available to members for at least 72 hours, and the conference committee had held at least 3 meetings with all members present where they resolved all items of difference between the House and Senate bills by vote. If we expect our constituents and the public to respect the laws we create, it is essential that there be transparency and accountability in the lawmaking process.

Government reform is one of my highest priorities here in Congress, and I know that is a goal we share. Your consideration of my request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Nolan