

January 9, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As you begin the 116th Congress, Western Governors strongly encourage you to retain an emphasis on and seek improvements to the state-federal relationship.

Over the past two years, Western Governors have engaged the Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs (Task Force) and Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs (Subcommittee) in a meaningful dialogue about institutional improvements to the state-federal relationship. Governors appreciate the opportunities these panels have provided for thoughtful consideration of issues surrounding the respective authorities of the federal government and the states – issues that are central to efficient and effective governance. We believe that continued bipartisan attention to these issues could lead to meaningful and beneficial adjustments to the state-federal paradigm, as well as to more productive working relationships between state and federal officials.

The significance of the state-federal relationship in our system of government warrants continued and dedicated congressional attention. We are optimistic that you, in partnership with Governors and interested parties, will consider and develop enduring structural changes to improve operational aspects of that relationship over the course of the 116th Congress.

With appreciation for your favorable consideration of this request, we are

Sincerely,



David Ige
Governor of Hawaii
Chair, WGA



Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
Vice Chair, WGA