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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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November 11, 2020

RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MARK WALKER, NORTH CAROLINA
BARRY LOUDERMILK, GEORGIA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Chairman
Committee on Rules
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole:

I write regarding the notification you received from Chairperson Lofgren stating that following consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, that operable and secure technology exists to conduct remote voting. While I've been willing to provide insight and engage on this issue, I want to make it clear that the majority did not consult me on this decision, but merely informed.

I understand the Chairperson is only looking at what is technically feasible as directed in H. Res. 965, but there are greater issues at stake here. During the only hearing our committee held on this issue, it was noted that remote voting would fundamentally change this institution, consolidate the power of the Speaker, and weaken the House.

Furthermore, one hearing is not adequate for doing industry research, gathering detailed requirements, and working with the institutional support entities that would manage a remote voting system. To the best of my knowledge, very little, if any, of that has been done. There are many questions that need to be answered to determine this process can be secure, including how will members authenticate themselves or how will we have a system that supports members will little or no connectivity at their homes? The House is on the receiving end of over two billion unauthorized scans, probes and connections per month. Remote voting is not something you simply flip a switch and start doing.

Therefore, as stated earlier, I was not consulted, but merely informed of this decision. While I stand firmly against allowing members to vote remotely because I believe it would fundamentally change this institution and not for the better, I believe it is premature to state we have operational technology to implement a secure process.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member