

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2009

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

We have always believed that transparency and openness are essential to a fair and working government. Our job as Members of Congress is to represent the people of our districts and cast our votes with their best interests in mind. A transparent and open government invites the public into the policy debates happening in Washington, helping elected officials make good decisions on behalf of their constituents.

We applaud the leadership you have shown in bringing transparency back to this chamber since Democrats were elected to the majority in 2006. Your efforts have helped legislators make informed and wise decisions, and have brought ordinary Americans back into the public debate over important issues.

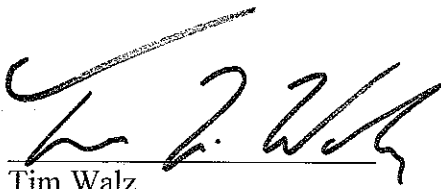
To do our jobs successfully, Members must be able to review legislation carefully so that we fully understand each bill's meaning and impact. Additionally, we need sufficient time to communicate with our constituents effectively, ensuring that we understand their perspective on the bills we consider.

Rep. Brian Baird has put forward a proposal, H. Res 554, which would prohibit the House from considering legislation that has not been made publicly available, via the Internet, to Members of the Congress and the general public for at least 72 hours.

We strongly agree with the intent of this proposal. Already the rules of the House require such a period of time be made available to Members for review of legislation and the drafting of amendments. Therefore, we ask that the Leadership of the House strive to meet this established standard with all major legislation, with only the rarest and most necessary of exceptions.

Thank you for your continued commitment to openness and transparency in Congress

Sincerely,



Tim Walz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Dan Burton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dennis Moore

Dennis Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tom Perriello

Tom Perriello
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Harry Teague

Harry Teague
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim Costa

Jim Costa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Betsy Markey

Betsy Markey
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ben Lujan

Ben Lujan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Scott Murphy

Scott Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Frank Kratovil

Frank Kratovil
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Larry Kissell

Larry Kissell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Travis Childers

Travis Childers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mary Jo Kilroy

Mary Jo Kilroy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Gene Taylor

Gene Taylor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Glenn Nye

Glenn Nye
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Parker Griffith

Parker Griffith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Gary Peters

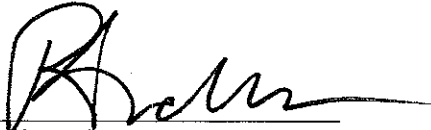
Gary Peters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Betty McCollum

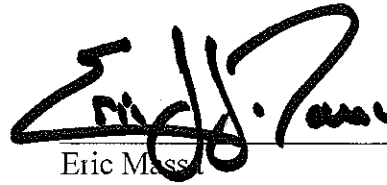
Betty McCollum
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Zack Space

Zack Space
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Paul Hodes
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Eric Massa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Mike Quigley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS