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September 26, 2018

Dear Colleague:

I am a proud member of this Democratic Caucus and am grateful for the opportunity to serve with such a diverse group of caring men and women. This is likely to be our last week in session before the elections and I wanted to write before we departed about my interest in serving as a Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC) for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress and ask for your support. I believe it is very important that the Heartland be one of the perspectives represented by one of the three Co-Chairs. Our caucus is strongest when we embrace a wide variety of views and communicate our shared values in a strong and consistent manner.

People often talk about the perceived conflict within our party, but I think that's a false narrative. Democrats need to have a strong, consistent message that speaks to the diverse membership of our party. My district highlights the unique nature of the Democratic coalition with parts located on the Detroit River that includes the headquarters of the Ford Motor Company, many other auto plants, UAW workers, the largest population of Muslims in the country, urban cities with challenges, and the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. They care deeply and passionately about many issues and I never shy away in any audience from talking about all the issues that matter to my constituents. We have made a mistake in times past of not talking about issues that are important to everyone.

My district has every different type of Democrat – from the retired autoworker in Taylor, Michigan, to the activist student from Ann Arbor, from the hunters from Downriver to the Imam at the mosque in Dearborn – and I talk to everyone about everything. You and I know that if we don't have a strong, consistent message that speaks to everyone, we won't win. We must tell voters what we stand for and how Democrats will help improve their lives. That means sticking to our core values and our history. We need to communicate our values in a clear, consistent manner to voters who are looking for strong and passionate *leadership* in this era of uncertainty and chaos. That is the messaging and the strategy that I would embrace if given the privilege of being elected to this position by the Democratic Caucus.

The American people aren't asking for a lot. They want a good paying job that allows them to live in a safe neighborhood, put food on the table for their families, be able to go to the doctor when they need to, afford their medicine and be able to retire with security and dignity. They want us to ensure our water is free from danger, to protect the air we breathe and fix the potholes in our roads. Ultimately, they want their children and grandchildren to live a better life

with more opportunities than were available to them. This is not too much to ask, yet these concerns have been unaddressed by years of Republican rule. Working families in America deserve better.

Over the coming weeks and months, I want to sit down with members and hear your thoughts and concerns. I look forward to having this discussion with each of you and am grateful to be a member of this Caucus. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress