

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

As the newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, we want to draw your attention to a recommendation which we believe provides common sense, bipartisan approach to increasing the effectiveness of Congress and improving our ability to govern in a rapidly changing world.

As you may be aware, Congress created the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) in 1972. The OTA's 24-year body of work encompasses some 750 reports and assessments on issues as far ranging as arms control to shale technologies to bioterrorism. These reports contributed to the security and economic growth of our nation by providing timely and forward-looking analysis of technological threats and opportunities.

The expertise provided by the OTA saved taxpayers billions of dollars by identifying cost-effective areas for future investment, and avoiding wasted money on technologies and policies that did not and could not work. As technology continues to advance and budgets continue to shrink, this kind of trustworthy, non-partisan analysis is no less necessary today than when the OTA was first started 43 years ago.

As technology continues to develop and spread at an increasingly rapid pace and our partisan divide seems to grow deeper, Congress needs this now more than ever. We urge you to support funding to reinstate Office of Technology Assessment to once again give legislators access to the non-partisan technical expertise we need to make prudent policy decisions. As you so eloquently said in your acceptance speech "wherever you come from, whatever you believe, we are all in the same boat."

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



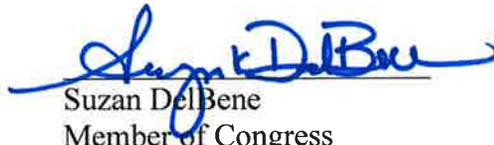
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



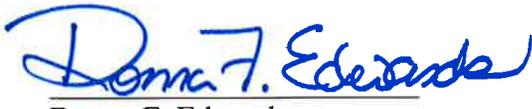
Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress