

Ranking Member Mark Meadows

Opening Statement

“Restoring the Partnership: The Future of Federalism in America”

Tuesday, July 24, 2019

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- At the outset, I want to note that notice for this hearing was given six days ago instead of the required seven.
- As the Ranking Member for the subcommittee, I have the ability under the House Rules to consent to the hearing proceeding despite the lack of adequate notice.
- Now, as my good friend from Virginia knows, there have been some disputes recently between the Majority and the Minority about the House Rules and notices specifically.
- However, our Subcommittee has long enjoyed a spirit of bipartisan cooperation.

- Sometimes an honest mistake is made, and I have no reason to doubt that's all that occurred.
- I believe the topic before us today is a very important one and so I do exercise that discretion granted to ranking members in the House Rules and consent to this hearing proceeding.
- Federalism and intergovernmental relations are incredibly important to our state, local, and tribal governments across the country.
- Our Constitution creates a system of dual sovereignty between the states and the federal government.
- The Supreme Court has said that this division is critical to securing the liberties of Americans.
- For far too long, the federal government has treated state and local governments as subordinates instead of partners in governing.

- We must restore the partnership between the federal government and state and local governments.
- I thank our witnesses for being here today and I look forward to your testimony.
- Mr. Chairman, I yield back.