

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member,

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I decided to run for office – not to make headlines, not to shout at pundits on cable news shows – but because I was fed up. I was fed up with the decisions being made in Washington that are hurting our families. And I was fed up with Washington dysfunction that's taking us backwards.

I haven't been here that long, but that dysfunction is even worse than I thought. And frankly I am disappointed. I believe that if Iowans knew the extent of this dysfunction, they would be just as shocked as I am – and demand change immediately. So that's why I'm here today – to demand we clean up Washington.

First, is the amount of wasteful spending that has gone unnoticed for years. I spent a decade at the State of Iowa directing initiatives to improve services while saving taxpayer dollars. I know how to root out waste, fraud and abuse. And the amount of waste, fraud and abuse I've seen in Washington is shocking.

When it comes to decorating offices and suites, high-ranking government officials shouldn't have a blank check. Iowans deserve to know their hard-earned tax dollars are being used to benefit the public good, not to decorate an office. So I joined my colleagues in introducing a bill to reign in excessive and frivolous government spending. This legislation would save taxpayer dollars, bring much-needed transparency when it comes to federal agency heads' excessive spending and create real consequences for officials who break the rules. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that you support this legislation.

Politicians have become accustomed to using taxpayer dollars for first class flights on airlines. Iowans would be shocked to know that Members of Congress have spent upwards of \$20,000 on paintings of themselves.

I've said from day one we need to put our resources where our values are. Well my values lie with the constituents of the Third district, not with making sure politicians have luxury travel or lavish oil paintings.

I've seen politicians quick to spend taxpayer dollars on themselves, but when it comes to helping our constituents, I've seen Washington move at a glacial pace.

When our office voicemail filled up over a long weekend, we were told it would cost tax dollars if we wanted to hear from more of our constituents. Or when Sue from Des Moines needed a local phone number for the social security office

because her husband passed away, she couldn't find one online and got lost in the switch board. She finally called my office and only because my staff was able to place a call to a *special* Congressional line to assist her, was she able to get through. Congressional dysfunction is hurting Iowans.

When I talk to folks back home about Washington dysfunction, I like to tell them about an archaic procedural process used for partisan purposes. It's called a *Motion to Recommit* – or MTR – and it's like any other amendment to a bill. But the difference is, by supporting an MTR, you are returning the bill back to committee, thus delaying it. And the language of the MTR isn't made public until we're actually voting for it on the floor. The American people deserve more out of their elected officials than voting on bills that they haven't had the proper time to read.

This year – and in the past – we have seen MTRs introduced in bad faith to undermine legislation and create fodder for partisan political attacks.

The MTR does not support transparent government. It is a process that denies our constituents their right to be heard. Indeed, we have a problem when a politician introduces an MTR to a bill – then sees its inclusion in the bill as requested – but then votes against the final passage of the bill.

It's as if you go into a car dealership to buy a car. Ask for upgrades to that same car. Then once those upgrades are made, you don't buy the car because you had no intention of purchasing the vehicle to begin with.

My fellow freshman and I were sent here to clean up government so it works for the people again. We need to end the use of the MTR so that both sides can debate their views openly and sincerely. Not waste taxpayer dollars by playing political games with legislation.

I have called on leadership to change this. As a small business owner when I see an issue in my company that is preventing successful outcomes – we make changes, quickly. There is no successful organization in the country that would continue with a process that doesn't work. The MTR doesn't work. My district, my state and the American people deserve the same out of Congress.