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.