

Rep Bishop Testimony

Thank you Chairman Connolly and Ranking Member Meadows for having me today.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this bill for a number of reasons, not least of which is the fact I got to sneak out of boring Ranking Members meeting being held at this same time.

I want to thank Chairman Connolly for his hard, dedicated work on this bill but also his work on the Speaker's Task Force on which we were able to serve together this past Congress. It is heartening to me that this issue of federalism is one that is bipartisan, neither conservative nor a liberal issue.

The Restore the Partnership Act is simple: it establishes the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, what I consider a permanent federalism body. This Commission is the rebirth of something that President Dwight Eisenhower first requested Congress to create in 1953. In my committee, the Natural Resources Committee, we have been working on an Eisenhower Memorial for some time. I can think of no better memorial to President Eisenhower than the continuation of one of his ideas and priorities, a federalism commission.

This bill pays homage to federalism, which was truly the unique contribution of our founders to government. It creates a permanent body to debate, discuss, and ultimately push the federal government and all government partners to examine the current balance of power and make recommendations to improve it. It is desperately needed.

I want again to thank Chairman Connolly and his staff (Collin) for working so diligently with mine on this legislation, I encourage all of my colleagues to support it as I do. I also would like to thank Mr. Meadows and his staff as well. I appreciate the witnesses, Matt, Terry, and Carl, all of whom were instrumental in working with the Speaker's Task Force and on this bill. What they have to say will be much more interesting than what I just did. I'm looking forward to it.