

I want to thank Co-chairman Kilmer and Graves for holding this hearing and leading this new select committee, I think the time is right for us as an institution to do some self-examination and take the time to actually try and make this place work better. I have a unique perspective on many of the areas within this committee's jurisdiction because I spent 16 years as a staffer prior to becoming a Member and I know first-hand how frustrating some of the processes around this place are. Furthermore, as a member of the Committee on House Administration for the last several Congresses and now as the Ranking Member of the Committee I have spent significant time in these issue areas. I want to highlight a few areas that I hope this committee makes recommendations as part of its work:

- Allowing the House to run more like a business and less like a government bureaucracy
 - Leverage purchasing power of all offices for things like commodity IT equipment, this would save money and some standardization would improve cyber security
 - Finding ways for the House to be more innovative on the technology front, not trying to do everything in-house but rather streamline the approval process for 3rd party vendors that offer solutions that offices could take advantage of.
 - Improving the process governing shared employees, offices have these positions because they are not getting the level of service they expect from the institutional support offices such as the finance office or HIR
- Technology Assessment services available to Members of Congress so that Members to get “smart” on technology issues in order to make informed policy decisions

Finally, a few thoughts on the inclusion of Franking operations being included in this committee's jurisdiction

Last Congress I had the opportunity to chair the Franking Commission. Myself and my counterpart, Rep. Susan Davis, were able to work together to achieve several bipartisan reforms to help our fellow Members better communicate with their constituents. For example:

- we revised the advertisement regulations so Members are better able to take advantage of social media ads.
- We rolled out a system for online submission of Franking requests, which saves staff time and eliminated the need for physical paperwork.

Despite these bipartisan successes, the Franking Commission is still a Commission that was created in statute in the 1970's and obviously digital communications were not something envisioned at that time.

The largest opportunity for improvement is in how digital communications are handled. In an environment where communications occur at the speed of a tweet, the Commission still operates in business days, so it's clear that there is room to:

- Speed up the process for reviewing and approving digital
- Make updates to outdated statute that don't mention digital
- Develop clear, deliberate policies, processes, and enforcement mechanisms for digital