



As H.R. 1 Cosponsor, Vote No on Motion to Recommit

March 5, 2019

Dear Democratic Representative:

H.R. 1 is the most important package of reforms to repair our democracy since the Watergate reforms of the 1970s.

Our nation today has a corrupt campaign finance system and a broken political system.

Our campaign finance system allows big money funders to buy corrupting influence over government decisions. Our voting system has barriers that make it difficult, not easy, for citizens to exercise their right to vote. Our redistricting system empowers officeholders to choose their voters rather than voters choosing their representatives. Our government ethics rules allow the President to misuse his public office for private gain, and contain major flaws for all three branches of government.

Voters made clear in the 2018 congressional elections that they want Washington corruption ended and our political system fixed. They want the voices of all Americans to have an opportunity to be heard by officeholders in Washington and the votes of all citizens to count.

H.R. 1 is holistic legislation that effectively addresses fundamental campaign finance, voting rights, redistricting and government ethics problems that are subverting our constitutional system of representative government. The American people believe these problems are at the heart of a rigged Washington that benefits wealthy donors and moneyed special interests at the great expense of ordinary Americans.

Democracy 21 greatly appreciates your co-sponsorship of H.R. 1. We strongly urge you to vote against any weakening amendments and any motion to recommit offered regarding the bill.

It is important to keep in mind that the motion to recommit will be offered by a House Member who is going to vote against the bill even if the motion is approved. The motion to recommit will not be offered to improve the bill, but rather will be a “gotcha” amendment intended both to try to cause problems for supporters of H.R. 1 and to damage the bill.

H.R. 1 is far too important to the American people for you to vote with its opponents, who have opposed the bill from the beginning and will vote against it in the end.

As a supporter of H.R. 1, Democracy 21 urges you not to join opponents of H.R. 1 in whatever disingenuous games they try to play with the motion to recommit. There is no basis for you to vote for a motion offered by an opponent of the bill in an effort to undermine the legislation.

H.R. 1 represents the beginning of a battle to revitalize our democracy that will be fought in Congress for as long as it takes to restore the integrity and health of our democracy. It is a battle that the American people will ultimately win.

We strongly urge you to vote against any motion to recommit and any weakening amendment to H.R. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Wertheimer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Wertheimer
President