June 28, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I urge you and the House leadership to reconsider the legislative calendar and to cancel the August recess if the House has not addressed the many critical issues facing our Nation and the American people. I would like to offer my full support to working on bipartisan, realistic funding bills, even if the House must work nights, weekends, and forgo the August recess to avoid another last-minute funding battle like we encountered in January.

The House has yet to pass a bipartisan budget, address the debt ceiling, or consider legislation to adjust budget caps. With fewer than thirty-five legislative days until the end of the fiscal year, Congress should remain in Washington until the work is complete. The House should immediately begin floor consideration of a bipartisan budget and complete bipartisan action on funding bills, so they can be openly debated through regular order and sent to the U.S. Senate for immediate consideration.

I appreciate that district work periods allow Members to visit with folks back in their respective communities, but it is now becoming a habit for Congress to abandon a long “to do” list in the rush to get out of town. It is easy to anticipate that this August will be no exception.

But Congress has not done its job. It has not completed the work of the people, including the FY2020 budget and appropriations process. Our constituents expect us to stay and finish the job. I stand ready to work around the clock to get the government funded before we break in August, well before the September 30 deadline. The American people expect Congress to work tirelessly to restore American greatness.

These critical national priorities, especially funding our nation’s defense, fixing our broken infrastructure, and getting our fiscal house in order are too important to delay. I ask that you keep the House in session to finish the business of the people.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress