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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 10, 2019

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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 keep the House in session until we can pass legislation to both secure our border and reopen the government – both are national imperatives.

I appreciate that the weekends allow Members to visit with constituents back in their respective communities, but we cannot abandon our constitutional responsibility to fund the operations of our government and the security of all Americans. Our federal employees are not getting paid, our Coast Guard members are not getting paid, and our border remains insecure. I believe Members need to stay in town until the job is done. Any legislation that comes before the House should be a realistic solution that will gain the support of both the Senate and the president. I support a comprehensive approach to combating illegal immigration; we must have a wall or physical barriers along the southern border. But we also need to leverage new technologies like unmanned aerial vehicles and reduce the number of visa overstays by implementing a mandatory biometric entry/exit system.

When I am working in Virginia, the one thing I hear repeatedly is “you all need to do your jobs and get something done up there in Washington.” But Congress has not done its job. It has not completed the work of the people and our constituents expect us to stay and finish the job. We need to put partisanship aside and pass an appropriations package that both opens the government and enhances border security.

These critical national priorities are too important to delay. I ask that you would keep the House in session to finish the business of the people.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress