

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3306

September 6, 2016

Dear Colleague,

Watching this year's elections and listening to the pundits, many would have you think that conservatism is in decline. After decades of advancement, some suggest the movement – having reached maturity – is now stale and approaching the end of its life-cycle.

I don't buy it. I believe there has never been a better time for a bold, conservative vision for America. I am also convinced the Republican Study Committee (RSC) is uniquely positioned and fully capable to deliver that vision and jumpstart a conservative revival.

We have seen over the course of this year that, as a means of achieving unity, sheer force of personality is no substitute for vigorous debate over ideas. We should unite around our shared belief that opportunity is unlocked when people are allowed to live free, unburdened by government and without limits to their initiative, innovation and ingenuity.

Serving almost two decades in vocational ministry is surprisingly applicable training for Congress. As a minister, one must learn to navigate waters in a constantly changing environment and stay focused on higher objectives, knowing you may not always please every individual. My years of listening and working to bridge factions around a shared interest is invaluable experience.

With this recognition and a desire to serve, I humbly ask for your support to be the next Chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

Over the next two years, it is clear that conservatives must stand united – whether to stop a liberal agenda or an erosion of our Party's conservative identity. We need to bring new ideas to old debates and new tactics to recurring fights.

The goal of the RSC should be loftier than achieving the lowest common denominator policy agreements among House conservatives; rather, it should be to build consensus around conservative ideas that move our cause forward. We must reject calls to sit on the sidelines.

We have the ongoing challenge to identify, set and pursue achievable objectives – to be proactive, reacting to new events and new information quickly. It will be my aim to raise the volume of RSC's conservative voice and to lead outside groups and organizations to rally around our message.

If I am afforded the opportunity to serve you in this role, I will lead in service, while striving to make our association effectively conservative.

Respectfully,



Mark Walker