



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

June 13, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Ranking Member Cummings:

The Council of State Government (CSG) is a regionally-based national organization serving all three branches of state government. Advocating the interests of states in our federal system of government and furthering the relationship between states and the federal government is a key priority for the organization.

Over the last year and half CSG, both regionally in the West and nationally, has been part of a coalition of multi-branch and bipartisan organizations representing state and local government officials working to realign the state – federal relationship. These efforts, which included the adoption of joint principles of federalism, have resulted in substantive engagement and the sharing of ideas with several federal agencies and members of Congress.

We have been pleased with the engagement of many federal agency officials to have meaningful dialogue with state and local government associations to address issues of concern while soliciting input to improve the state – federal partnership. To this end, we believe Congress can play a significant role in promoting a more functional and effective system of federalism for the benefit of our shared constituents.

Enclosed for your and the Committee's consideration are recommendations for congressional action. These recommendations, which contain many of the proposals recently submitted to this Committee by the Western Governors' Association, align to our organization's adopted federalism principles,

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Rep. Kimberly Dudik, MT | *Chair-Elect, CSG West*

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Edgar Ruiz | *Director, CSG West*

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federalism process recommendations and resolutions by our Western region related to the state – federal consultation process.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations. We also want to thank you and the members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for your leadership to engage with state executive and legislative branch officials, as well as local government representatives, in the development of legislation that improves our federal system of government.

If you have any questions about the attached recommendations, please feel free to contact Andy Karellas, CSG's director federal affairs, at (202) 624-5460 or CSG West's director, Edgar Ruiz, at (916) 553-4423.

Sincerely,

Senator J. Stuart Adams
Utah Senate Majority Whip
Chair, CSG West

Representative Bob Godfrey
Connecticut House Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore
Co-Chair, CSG Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Representative Kimberly Dudik
Montana House of Representatives
Vice Chair, CSG West

Senator Wayne Niederhauser
Utah Senate President
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