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Committee on Agriculture

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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

November 5, 2026

Dear Battleground Colleagues,

Congratulations on your hard-fought victories. You ran disciplined, authentic campaigns in some of the toughest districts in the country, and in January, Democrats will take control of the House in a historic majority thanks to you. Our reward is a new set of challenges: the final two years of the Trump presidency, a 2028 cycle sure to bring plenty of landmines, and, most importantly, the responsibility to make good on our promises in the 120th Congress. To succeed, our caucus must look to the members who made this majority possible to help shape how we lead.

In that spirit, I am writing to ask for your support to serve as our next Battleground Leadership Representative. Elected by returning Frontline and incoming Red to Blue members before the start of each Congress, this position gives the members who make the majority a seat at the Democratic Caucus leadership table. With Democrats setting the House agenda, this position will be all the more important. We need a clear-eyed representative who will fight for policies that work in this historically large battleground, share the timely information each of us needs to succeed, and advocate for the individual priorities you need to deliver for constituents back home. If elected, I would do just that.

I have always believed that battleground politics is a team sport. While serving my freshman term in a district President Trump won, I have devoted substantial time and resources to supporting Frontline and Red to Blue colleagues. As Freshman Representative for the New Democrat Coalition and Vice Chair of the Majority Democrats, I have worked to elevate our colleagues' unique talents, steer attention their way, and help secure the support they need. Our battleground members are extraordinary individually, and we are strongest when we work together.

I have spent my entire political career in a frontline district in Michigan, a diverse and perennial swing state. In 2022, I became the first woman and first Democrat elected to represent my region in our state Senate, helping tip control of the chamber for the first time in decades. Two years later, I flipped an open congressional seat in a district Donald Trump carried, and this year I won reelection, even in a good year outperforming the top of our ticket by 8%. My district is working class, the birthplace of the UAW. From farmers to union retirees to small-business owners across urban, suburban, and rural communities, people in my district work hard and want a fair shot. They see a system stacked against them, and they expect their elected officials to work just as hard to make things right. It is not too much to ask, and I know how much trust it takes to earn the chance to represent them.

Each of our districts is unique, and nobody understands what it takes to win yours better than you. We need a Battleground Leadership Representative who knows the job is to listen to the challenges you face, fight for what you need to succeed, and when we are aligned, leverage our collective voice to drive outcomes. That starts with our weekly meetings. In the majority, we will need to do more than address the votes of the week. We have to stay close on legislation moving through committees, identify potential problems, and advocate for our districts to shape the policy agenda before it even comes to the floor. My staff and I will stay in close contact with your offices to understand what you need and fight for you every step of the way.

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We need to ensure the House Democratic agenda is designed to succeed in the battleground. This is work I know well. As the tipping-point member of Michigan's 2023 Democratic trifecta, I helped shape an agenda that would resonate across our state and successfully pushed back against proposals dangerously out of step with the constituents who gave us the majority. I took heat, but it was worth it. Together, we built a record we could run on. I will bring that same independence and determination to this role, fighting to keep our caucus focused on practical solutions rather than political distractions that do nothing for the people we represent.

I also know how crucial it is that you bring home tangible, community-specific wins for your constituents, and I am ready to do the behind-the-scenes work to help you. I have built meaningful relationships with leaders on the Steering and Policy Committee and understand how to advocate within that process. I am ready to use our battleground seat on the committee to fight for assignments that put our members in the best position to deliver. Then, I also know how a big win for your district can make all the difference. I am eager to work with you and Leadership to get your priorities onto the floor and signed into law. Finally, I personally understand how sometimes the most important work happens before a difficult vote: fixing it before it hits the floor, finding an opportunity for you to offer an amendment, or identifying the political cover you need. Whatever the situation calls for, my team and I will work with you and yours to help deliver solutions you can take home and win on.

Finally, one of the first things I learned in Congress is the special camaraderie and power of our battleground community. I want to build on that by bringing policy experts, party leaders, and those shaping our party's future into our conversations, so we can ask tough questions and make sure our perspectives are heard. Then, without adding to the pressures of your schedules, I will help find spaces for us to kick back, enjoy each other's company, and commiserate – because these jobs are too hard not to have moments of joy sprinkled in. A strong battleground community will not only help shape the future of our Party, but also offer real support, friendship, and connection for us and our families as we navigate this work together.

Every one of us made sacrifices to get here. We spent long days away from our families and missed important moments because we believed we could make a difference. We asked people to put their faith in us, and they did. We cannot squander the opportunity to deliver on the promises that brought us into the majority – people are hungry for results, and it’s our job to meet the moment. I would be honored to serve as your Battleground Leadership Representative, work alongside each of you to make the most of this moment, and help turn the hopes of the people who sent us here into real results.

I look forward to connecting personally soon and hope I can earn your vote. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or contact my Chief of Staff, Shane Wolfe, at shane.wolfe@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen McDonald Rivet

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Member of Congress

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