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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

COMMUNICATIONS,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND
THE INTERNET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1319

November 8, 2010

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The Honorable John Boehner
1011 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-3508

Dear Representative Boehner:

Leader / Speaker

Congratulations on your successful election to Congress! With all the time, effort and hard work you have put in, as of today we have a 60 seat victory and that number could grow higher.

Regardless of how many seats we hold, the American people have given us a great opportunity to earn back their trust. We as a Conference pledged to them a new agenda and a new direction with the American people and their values as its foundation.

The people have spoken and we cannot make the same mistakes of the past that led them to lose faith in the Republican Party. Clearly they have shown a willingness to make changes when their voices have been ignored. We must not ignore them now.

Over the last two years it has been an honor to serve as a Vice Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) and Co-Chairman of the NRCC's Mentoring Program. Through that experience, I have been in touch with our members who were willing to be mentors and with all our candidates. Working with both of these groups gave me a unique opportunity to see this election from a district-to-district point of view.

I have also worked over the weeks and months preceding the election to take back the House by visiting districts nationwide and by offering financial support. Illinois alone showed wins in three Democratic held seats and one open seat, in addition to winning the Senate seat formerly held by President Obama. This number could go up to four takeover wins in the coming days. These experiences have given me a greater understanding of the direction all members envision as we move this nation forward. I can help bring our team of newly elected and re-elected members together to achieve further success.

To that end I am placing my name in consideration for Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I have served on the Committee since first coming to the House in 1997. I am currently the Ranking Member on the Health Subcommittee. In the past I served as the Ranking Member on the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee and the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. I have also served on the Communications, Technology and the Internet and the Energy and Environment Subcommittees my entire career.

My experience on the Committee coupled with the NRCC Mentoring Program makes me uniquely qualified among a group of talented contenders to lead the Energy and Commerce Committee. We continue to face an Administration with a far left agenda. Now is not a time to moderate or compromise on our most deeply held values.

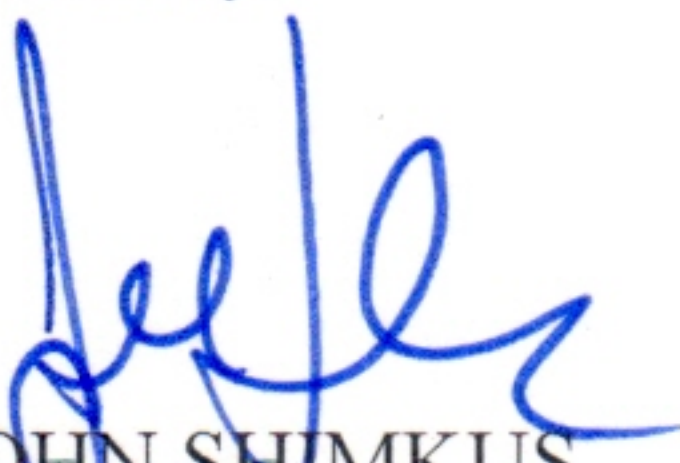
Clearly, the American people are looking for us to repeal and replace Obamacare while ensuring basic health care principles that will improve health care delivery for all of us. The nation rejected this law, repealing and replacing it has been debated in the House, by the American people, and during the election. The time for debate is over and a vote to repeal and replace it should be something the House of Representatives addresses in the first week of the 112th Congress. While we may not be able to guarantee a victory in the Senate, in the House we can then turn our sights to exhaustive oversight and legislative fixes in this flawed and dangerous law.

I will continue to hold the White House and this Administration accountable, just as I have done over the last year as the Ranking Member on the Health Subcommittee. The Democratic Majority shied away from hearings on Obamacare, not holding a single hearing on it after the bill became law. I will ensure that Members have the opportunity to question this Administration on Obamacare, because the American people deserve to know the full impact this law will have on their lives.

The voters have asked for openness and transparency. Under my tenure, the Energy and Commerce Committee will use regular order, allow amendments, and make sure every Member of our Conference knows what is happening in Committee and how it will impact their district. I stood with the rest of my colleagues and made these pledges. I look forward to a new direction for this Congress, but more importantly, for this country. The times of expanding government, increasing debt, turning a blind eye to House rules, and continued government over-regulation will end.

Over the next several weeks, I will be laying out specifics about the direction I will take the Energy and Commerce Committee in the 112th Congress if elected Chairman. I look forward to working with you to ensure we help Americans get back on their feet.

Sincerely,



JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress

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