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Dear Colleague,

The 2012 House Calendar is now available online at majorityleader.gov. As with this year, the goal of next year's calendar is to create certainty, increase efficiency and productivity in the legislative process, protect committee time, and afford Members the opportunity to gain valuable input from their constituents at home.

I believe this year's calendar, because of its new design, helped improve the legislative culture of the House. Legislative days were adhered to and voting times have been predictable. The litmus test for legislation making its way to the floor rose precipitously, creating better products and more transparency for the public. Introduced bills now include constitutional authority statements, commemoratives have been eliminated, and the percentage of bills that have come to the floor under suspension of the rules has dramatically declined from 80% last year to 55% this year. Combined, these reforms have helped fulfill the Speaker's commitment to a more deliberative legislative process. For example, the House has taken 800 roll call votes through October 14 of this year. By the same time last year, the House had taken just 565 roll calls.

Finally, and most importantly, we have been able to emphasize the importance of committee work. Oversight, investigation, fact-finding, and problem solving is a job best suited for our committees and because of our emphasis, committees have enjoyed a boom of activity, holding 1,276 hearings and 194 markups to date.

Next year, we will again adhere to reserving each morning for committee activities, with the same exception made for last days in session. As a result, floor votes will start no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and end no later than 7:00 p.m. In order to help facilitate the appropriations process, however, we will allow for votes after 7:00 p.m. when an appropriations bill is being considered on the floor. Again, last votes for each week will end no later than 3:00 p.m.

The House's calendar cannot work unless the Members, themselves, have input. The 2012 calendar reflects the input of this chamber's membership and we will continue to ensure that it facilitates a productive legislative body.

Sincerely,



Eric Cantor
Majority Leader