

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2018

Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW, - Room 7100
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller Dodaro,

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a review of the offices within executive branch agencies tasked with managing intergovernmental affairs for their respective agencies. We request that as part of this work GAO review how the federal government can improve the visibility and accessibility of intergovernmental affairs offices.

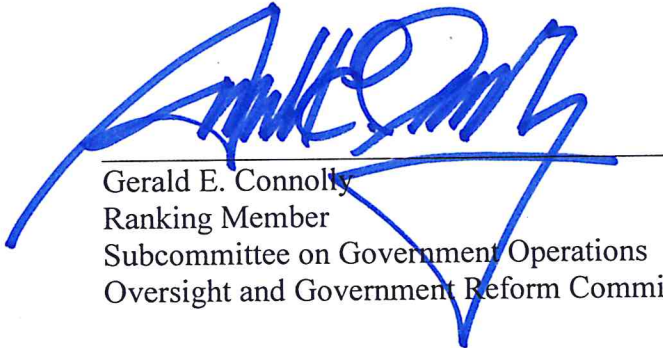
The Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs was established to examine ways to improve collaboration between all levels of government and help maintain an appropriate balance of power between the federal government and state, tribal, and local governments. Important to the practical application of the principles of federalism is a commitment by federal agencies to engagement and consultation with their intergovernmental partners when formulating and implementing policies that have federalism implications. However, not all agencies are created equal in their execution of successful intergovernmental collaboration.

To that end, we request that GAO conduct a comparative review of intergovernmental offices for executive branch agencies. As part of this work, GAO could consider an evaluation of the offices':

- Statutory framework and authorities
- Written policies for outreach and engagement with intergovernmental partners and relevant advocacy organizations
- Written policies for facilitating consultation and collaboration with intergovernmental partners consistent with Executive Order 13132
- Use of state, tribal, or local government advisory councils
- Staffing and funding levels
- Ability to recruit and retain individuals with state, tribal, or local government experience
- Development of agency intergovernmental priorities and goals
- Efforts to educate agency staff on the roles and responsibilities of intergovernmental partners

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We welcome a dialogue with GAO in order to develop a work product that is valuable to the Task Force, federal agencies, and our intergovernmental partners. Please contact Collin Davenport (Collin.Davenport@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Gerald E. Connolly or Adam Stewart (Adam.Stewart@mail.house.gov) with Chairman Rob Bishop with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations
Oversight and Government Reform Committee



Rob Bishop
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee