

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2019

Robert Fersh
President and Founder
Convergence Center for Policy Resolution
1133 19th St NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Rob,

As Co-Chairs of the Bipartisan Working Group (BPWG), we would like to invite Convergence to collaborate with the BPWG in the 116th Congress. We believe that Convergence is uniquely situated to support BPWG's mission to help Members strengthen relationships across the aisle and find common ground so that they are able to work more effectively to advance their shared policy goals.

Through his work on the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform (JSC-BAPR), Rep. Kilmer and his staff have had the opportunity to work with Convergence and other Members of the JSC-BAPR to better understand the drivers of our nation's current fiscal challenges and to develop sound policy recommendations to help resolve them. Throughout that process, Convergence distinguished themselves from other stakeholders by demonstrating a clear dedication to neutrality and ensuring all voices and perspectives were heard by the JSC-BAPR Members. We believe that approach would greatly enhance the BPWG's efforts to explore other complex policy issues of national importance and find common ground for Members to advance their shared goals.

Looking forward to the 116th Congress, we hope that continued collaboration with Convergence can aid the BPWG in our efforts to reach new levels of success. First, we want to grow our membership and strengthen relationships among BPWG Members. With such a large freshman class, we see an opportunity to identify and attract those interested in working together to solve problems to join our effort. Convergence's unique methodology of building trust and relationships among ideologically diverse groups can certainly help with this goal.

Next, we want the BPWG to continue to serve as a forum for Members to explore and debate difficult policy issues in order to find common ground and develop novel policy solutions. While Convergence will not play a role in the policy development, we believe your expertise in coalition building will aid our Members in having more meaningful and productive dialogue that will ultimately improve the work they produce.

Finally, we hope that Convergence's large network of stakeholders will allow our Members to connect with experts and ideas from across the political spectrum. Not only will this help to erode ideological barriers among Members, but it will also ensure our Members have access to the best information to base their policy decisions on.

In summation, we are requesting Convergence's technical advice and/or assistance with deepening the relationships among Members of BPWG, facilitating policy discussions in the hopes of finding common ground, and identifying an ideologically diverse group of experts to advise BPWG on policy issues.

Ultimately our goal is to increase the effectiveness of the BPWG by empowering Members to engage in meaningful dialogue with their colleagues in order to develop consensus-driven solutions to complex policy challenges. We believe that Convergence is uniquely suited to support this effort and we look forward to continuing to work with you and Convergence to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,



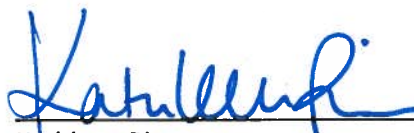
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, BPWG



Andy Barr
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, BPWG



Susan Brooks
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, BPWG



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, BPWG



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, BPWG