



May 15, 2023

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marc Molinaro
U.S. House of Representatives
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: The Restore the Partnership Act

On behalf of the following six organizations representing state and local governments at the federal level –**The Council of State Governments, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors and the International City/County Management Association** – we write to express our support for the Restore the Partnership Act. Our organizations strongly support and encourage the formation of a federal commission dedicated to ensuring cooperative action between all levels of government. We greatly appreciate your bipartisan efforts and look forward to working with you to advance this legislation within Congress.

It is our hope that the “Commission on Intergovernmental Relations of the United States” proposed in this bill will be a valuable successor to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR). The ACIR was an important platform to improve intergovernmental communication, cooperation and coordination between federal, state and local governments. The commission was independent, nonpartisan and comprised of a combination of federal, state and local government officials. With the current political environment in Washington, reestablishing a similar institution like the ACIR would help provide a process to review and assess the potential impact of federal policy on state, local and tribal entities. Early, consistent and meaningful engagement with intergovernmental partners is vital in the development and implementation of effective policies, programs and regulations, Early, consistent and meaningful engagement with intergovernmental partners is vital in the development and implementation of effective policies, programs and regulations, to benefit all levels of government and the public we serve.

Our organizations and our members stand ready to support your efforts to establish this commission and increase the focus on federalism within Congress, federal agencies and the public. Establishing this commission will ensure the federal government prioritizes the voices and input of state and local officials in its decision-making process. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to advance this legislation in the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Chase
CEO and Executive Director
National Association of Counties



David Adkins
CEO and Executive Director
The Council of State Governments



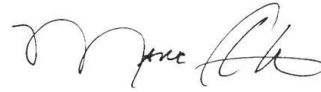
Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Tim Storey
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Marc Ott
Executive Director
International City/County Management
Association