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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

August 4, 2011

Mr. John Berry
Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E. St NW
Washington, DC 20415

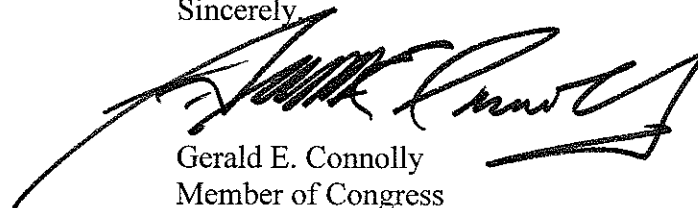
Dear Director Berry,

Thank you for your work to implement the Telework Improvements Act, including issuance of telework guidance to employees regarding telework eligibility. I am writing with respect to continued implementation of the Telework Improvements Act.

According to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report from July, agencies have not received guidance on how to integrate telework into their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). GAO noted that COOP guidance must be detailed if it is to be effective, including directions on improving information technology infrastructure that enables telework. According to this report, OPM concurred with GAO's recommendations. As you know, I introduced the amendment which added COOP language to the Telework Improvements Act, so I am particularly interested in the implementation of this provision. I would appreciate it if you could inform me of what OPM is doing to issue COOP guidance following the GAO report.

Last year I wrote to you following the blizzards and nuclear summit to ask if OPM was using telework to mitigate congestion during extreme weather or events which cause widespread street closures. I appreciate your leadership to implement telework during these events. This summer's weather suggests that extreme heat may also create a need for expanded telework. As you know, we have experienced nearly a month of consecutive days with 90 degree or higher temperatures, including record high temperatures and unusually high nighttime temperatures. This extreme heat is not only uncomfortable, but also exacerbates ground level ozone pollution and associated respiratory diseases. I am aware that the Department of Homeland Security encouraged employees to take a telework day during the most extreme heat, and would appreciate your consideration of making such a practice more common across agencies. Reducing traffic and associated ozone pollution in our region will become increasingly important as extreme heat becomes more common in our region. Thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia