

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Restore the Partnership with States and Localities

Join your local elected leaders in supporting a bipartisan, independent commission to promote stronger intergovernmental relations

Supported by the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the International City/County Management Association

Dear Colleague

Elected county leaders from across the nation will be calling on members of Congress next week to encourage you to join us in cosponsoring bipartisan legislation to revive the National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

I introduced the Restore the Partnership Act of 2009 (H.R. 3332) with Rep. Leonard Lance (NJ-7th) to restore a forum for open dialogue among federal, state and local decision makers on policy matters that affect us all.

Many of us have experience serving at the local and state level, and we know firsthand how actions taken here in Congress affect decisions made by our governors, state legislators, county supervisors, city council members and school board members back home. It is our local and state partners that implement policies and standards for education, air/water quality, public safety, transportation and so much more.

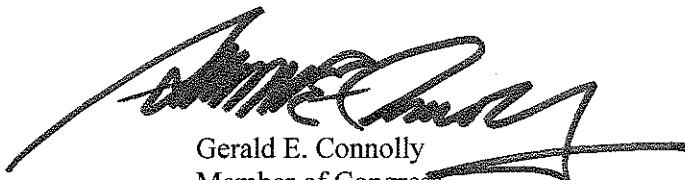
Successfully addressing the challenges our communities face requires communication and collaboration with our state and local partners. There was a time when the three levels of government did work together in a bipartisan, independent fashion, but that valuable partnership was allowed to dissolve. The need for coordination and transparency has only increased since then.

This legislation emphasizes the importance of federalism to the American system of government in which power is divided among federal, state and local governments. Only by working together will we succeed in advancing the interests of our shared constituents. That is why the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the International City/County Management Association are supporting this important initiative.

Please watch for your county leaders next week as they are in town for the National Association of Counties 2010 Legislative Conference, and join us in restoring this partnership with them by reviving the National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

For more information about the Restore the Partnership Act (H.R. 3332) or to cosponsor, please contact Dominic Bonaiuto in the office Congressman Connolly at dominic.bonaiuto@mail.house.gov or 202-225-1492.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
VA-11th
Fairfax County, Va., BOS (1995-2008)



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress
NJ-7th
N.J. Assembly (1991-2001)/N.J. Senator (2001-2008)