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Dear Republican Colleague,

I am writing to announce my candidacy for Chairman of the House Republican Conference in the 111th Congress and to ask for your support. I will make every effort to speak with you about this personally before our leadership elections.

In all honesty, I had not planned to run for a leadership position, but after receiving encouragement from many colleagues in the Republican Study Committee and members of our current leadership team I decided to offer my name for consideration.

Adam Putnam has served us well. As he leaves this role, I want to thank him for his professional and effective service to our Conference.

As we choose who will lead us in the days ahead, it is essential that we learn the lessons of 2006 and 2008 with an eye toward 2010. We must be forward thinking, develop winning conservative strategies and communicate them effectively to the American people.

As I said two years ago, we must pledge ourselves to promote and defend the agenda the American people elect Republicans to advance: defend our nation, our treasury and our values. We must again embrace the notion that Republicans seek the Majority not simply to govern, but to change government for the better.

If you elect me as your new Chairman, I would take a page from the playbook of President Ronald Reagan who taught us that it is not enough to believe great things, we must effectively communicate great things to the American people.

In various roles over the past eight years, I have worked to provide a credible and persuasive voice for the Republican agenda. Credibility will be essential for our primary task these next two years—to expose, dismantle and defeat the liberal Democrat agenda. I see every Republican member as a leader, with unique gifts and talents, and I am asking for the privilege of serving this team of leaders as Chairman of the House Republican Conference.

Most sincerely,



Mike Pence
Member of Congress