

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for contacting me with regards to electing the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. I appreciate having the opportunity to learn about your views on issues of importance to Northwest Florida and our Nation.

The process for electing an individual to serve as Speaker of the House is outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution states, "The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment." Thus, at the start of each new Congress, or during the legislative year in the event of the Speaker's death or resignation, the U.S. House of Representatives elects its Speaker as the first order of business. The Clerk of the House requests nominations from each party, and elections are conducted publically by roll call. The Speaker may only be elected by majority present for the vote. If there is no clear majority, the roll call is repeated until one individual achieves the requisite majority.

The Speaker of the House is entrusted with immense responsibility as leader of the U.S. House of Representatives and is second in the line of succession for the President of the United States, following the Vice-President. Following the November 2014 elections, the returning members of the House Republican Conference and the newly elected Republican candidates, met to vote on leadership nominations for the 114th Congress. Members interested in pursuing the role of Speaker of the House or nominating another member were appropriately given the opportunity to do so. At this meeting, Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), who ran unopposed, was selected to be the Republican Conference nominee for Speaker of the House.

As required by the U.S. Constitution and noted above, the entire U.S. House of Representatives elected its Speaker of the House on January 6, 2015, when the 114th Congress convened. I voted for the Republican Conference nominee, Congressman John Boehner, who was elected by the majority with 216 votes to serve his third term as Speaker. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) received 164 votes, Congressman Daniel Webster (R-FL) received 12 votes, Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) received 3 votes, Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL) received 2 votes, Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) received 2 votes, and the following individuals received 1 vote: Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-SC), U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), the Honorable Colin Powell, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN), Congressman Peter Defazio (D-OR), U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL), and Congressman John Lewis (R-GA).

Under Speaker Boehner's leadership, the House has cut back its wasteful spending government-wide by hundreds of billions of dollars by utilizing an open amendment process and banning earmarks, voted over 60 times to repeal all or portions of the President's massive takeover of our health care system, and has increased transparency and oversight of federal government agencies ranging from the Internal Revenue Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Environmental Protection Agency. These are only a few of the many conservative actions taken by the House since it returned to Republican leadership following the 2010 midterm elections. Just within the last year, the House advanced over 700 commonsense measures that would provide solutions to some of the critical challenges facing Americans across the country. Yet on issue after issue, these important measures advanced by the House under the Speaker's leadership were only hit with the gridlock that became all too common under Harry Reid's leadership in the Democrat-controlled Senate. I am now encouraged by the fact that for the first time since Speaker Boehner took over the gavel in 2011, the House will be working with new leadership in the Senate to build on the House's success in the previous Congresses and advance a robust legislative agenda.

Again, thank you for contacting me to share your thoughts on this important matter. I can assure

you that this was a decision that I did not take lightly, and I remain committed to upholding the Constitutional principles upon which our great Nation was founded and fighting for the conservative values that I share with the constituents of Florida's First Congressional District.

If you would like to receive further information on issues of importance to you, please log on to my website at <http://www.house.gov/jeffmiller>. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress