

Thank you Mr. Speaker. While I do not object to Mr. Beard as the selected candidate for Chief Administrative Officer of the House, I do have serious concerns about the lack of transparency in the selection process that resulted in his appointment.

As former Chairman, and current Ranking Member, of the Committee on House Administration, I have firsthand knowledge of the important role the Chief Administrative Officer plays in House operations. The CAO leads an organization of great complexity with responsibilities that are of significant consequence to the House of Representatives and its more than 10,000 employees.

While the proper administration of the House is ultimately the responsibility of the majority, the successful operation of the House is most certainly not a partisan matter. Republicans and Democrats alike maintain a shared investment in preserving, and building upon, the professional improvements made by the House Chief Administrative Officer over the past twelve years.

As many of us remember, in the 104th Congress when Republicans gained a majority in this House, a period of dramatic restructuring followed, which included the development of professional, fair, and transparent House operations.

During this time of change and improvement, many lessons were learned, including the importance of an open and competitive process for selecting a Chief Administrative Officer of the House.

In 1997, the last occasion that a new CAO was appointed for the House, a search committee was constituted that included two Republicans and two Democrats, with a unanimous decision required from all four search committee members in order to select a candidate for the position of Chief Administrative Officer.

At that time our current House Majority Leader, my honorable colleague from Maryland, Mr. Hoyer, stated that the formulation of a search committee comprised of the leaders of both parties “was done to assure that we would have a bipartisan agreement on an administrator for the business of the House.” Mr. Hoyer also stated that, “what this House needs in a bipartisan and effectively non partisan way, to assure ourselves and the American public that the business of the House, the paying of our bills, the managing of our information systems, all of that which has nothing to do with the formulation of policy, but everything to do with the effective management of the people’s House is being done in a proper fashion.”

That “bi-partisan agreement” that Mr. Hoyer spoke of resulted in the appointment of Jay Eagen, our current Chief Administrative Officer. Under Mr. Eagen’s tenure, the House has achieved eight consecutive clean opinions from independent auditors, an impressive result by any measure. I would be curious to know what the Steny Hoyer of 1997, who spoke of things being done “in a

proper fashion,” would think of the process being used today to appoint Mr. Beard.

While I can't speak to Mr. Hoyer's current view, I do support his comments from a decade ago. His remarks regarding the search committee used to appoint Mr. Eagen recognized that on some matters, such as the appointment of a post with such a significant impact to this institution, we should be able to put aside our party affiliations and work together to find a suitable candidate. Although I would have liked to make a comparable statement today if such a bi-partisan process were followed, instead I am left only to express my sincere disappointment.

While the qualifications of Mr. Beard are not under attack, the process Speaker Pelosi administered to make this appointment is. The selection of Mr. Beard occurred without the benefit of a fair and competitive search process, and without input from any Members serving on the Committee of jurisdiction. Without a fair, open, and competitive process, there is simply no way to determine whether this selection is in the best interest of the House, and the complete absence of transparency is cause for alarm for those who value the integrity of this institution.

Daniel Beard may in fact be the right person to lead the CAO organization, and I truly hope that he is. However, given this selection process there is simply no way of knowing that with any degree of confidence.

This appointment could, and should, have occurred with the full confidence of all members of the House. Unfortunately, the burden of proof now lies with Mr. Beard, and ultimately, Speaker Pelosi, to ensure that Mr. Beard is able to maintain the level of skill and professionalism we have come to expect from the House CAO.

Thank You Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.