

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman, Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Chairwoman Klobuchar:

Last week, the Senate unanimously agreed to my resolution (S.Res.512) in support of reopening the United States Capitol Building and Senate office buildings—which have been closed to the American public for approximately two years—and returning to pre-pandemic public visitation policies. As the Senate recognized in this resolution, reopening the Capitol to the American people is critical to facilitating public participation in the legislative process and public enjoyment of these historic buildings.

Similar efforts are ongoing in the House of Representatives, as Representatives Ralph Norman and Bryan Steil have introduced H.Res.934 and H.Res.961, respectively, which likewise urge reopening of the Capitol and House office buildings.

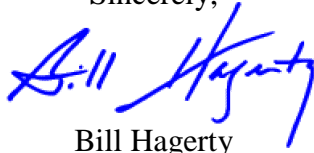
Most Americans have returned to work, stores, restaurants, and other public places have been welcoming Americans since 2020, and tens of thousands of people routinely gather across the country for sporting, entertainment, worship, and other events. Last week, hundreds of people gathered in the Capitol without masks for the State of the Union address.

Therefore, while I understand that certain planning and coordination with the Senate Sergeant at Arms, United States Capitol Police, and other staff may be necessary to implement the resolution and that staffing or operational issues may require a staged reopening, urgent planning for reopening the Capitol and Senate office buildings as soon as possible should be ongoing. More specifically, it seems eminently reasonable that S.Res.512 be implemented by Monday, April 4.

Given that the Senate has voted in support of reopening, if you do not believe it is feasible to reopen within this reasonable time frame, please provide specific reasons why. In such case, at the very least, you should immediately schedule a Rules Committee hearing to discuss what steps remain before the Capitol can reopen to the American people in accordance with S.Res.512.

Please let me know if my office can be helpful in any way with respect to the reopening process, and I look forward to working with you to welcome the American people back into the halls of Congress very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Hagerty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

Bill Hagerty
United States Senator