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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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December 12, 1998

Hon. Henry J. Hyde
 Chairman
 Committee on the Judiciary
 2138 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am in agreement with your recommendation that, in keeping with the Rules and precedents of the House, the House should consider the Articles of Impeachment as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary as a privileged matter, and should not consider any resolution of censure. As you correctly noted, the joint resolution of censure offered and defeated by the Committee on the Judiciary, and indeed, any consideration of the issue of censure of the President in lieu of impeachment, is not privileged under the rules and precedents of the House. As a constitutional matter, I share your view that censure of the President would violate the careful balance of separation of powers and the scheme laid out by the Framers to address the issue of executive misconduct.

Your recommendation that the House proceed in accordance with the general rules and precedents of the House in the consideration of this matter has my full support.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Livingston
 Speaker-Nominee

cc: Hon. Newt Gingrich
 Speaker of the House