Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4903

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Denise Turner Roth
Acting Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Roth,

As Chairman of the New Democrat Coalition, I write to encourage you and the General Services Administration (GSA) to facilitate a swift and effective process for U.S. government agencies to more effectively integrate Yelp with their operations to further transparency and better respond to public feedback.

As a New Democrat, I believe that government needs to work better for everyday Americans. Now more than ever, we have the technological capacity to hold our government accountable and ensure it is responsive to the people it's meant to serve. Earlier this year, the New Democrat Coalition released our *American Prosperity Agenda*, which called for greater government accountability. If we want to make government work better, we should make it easier for people to say what's working – and what isn't. That is why we believe we need a Yelp for government – a modern method of allowing those who interact with and rely on government agencies to provide feedback and more directly influence the process of government reform.

As you know, over the past year Yelp and GSA have been working to allow government agencies to officially claim their Yelp pages and use these as a tool to better interact with the people the agencies serve. Currently, there are many unclaimed government pages with multiple reviews of government services. Allowing agencies and departments to claim and curate these pages would foster a greater level of feedback from those who interact with agencies and enable government personnel to more effectively address citizen concerns.

Especially given successful agreements between the federal government and social media companies such as Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube, I am confident that you can come to an agreement that works for all sides. I encourage you to continue to work with Yelp to reach an agreement quickly to allow the federal government to fully utilize the Yelp platform. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind
Member of Congress