

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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Opening Statement Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney Business Meeting December 19, 2019

I would like to speak out of order in order to welcome our two new committee members, Congresswoman Katie Porter of California and Congresswoman Debra Haaland of New Mexico. I also want to note that with their addition to our roster, that will make a total of 14 women on the committee, which is the most women that have ever served on this committee. It is twice as many women as there were serving on this committee last year.

The first women who served on our predecessor committee are three women who served on Government Operations back in the 83rd Congress, which was in 1949 and 1950. Those pioneering women were Marguerite Church, Cecil Murray Harden, and Katherine Price Collier St. George. And I would now like to introduce our two newest colleagues to join this proud and growing female COR contingent.

Congresswoman Katie Porter represents Orange County, California's 45th District. She has made it a priority in Washington to ask tough questions of corporate CEOs and Administration officials to hold them accountable to the American people. As a single mother, she knows firsthand about the challenges faced by working families and always puts everyday Americans above special interests. Before coming to Congress, she spent nearly two decades taking on special interests that dominate American politics, including as California's independent watchdog against the banks and as a consumer finance expert who helped Congress pass protections from abusive credit card fees in 2009.

I know from personal experience, she came to a hearing of mine years ago on credit card fraud as an expert witness from California. Welcome!

Congresswoman Deb Haaland serves New Mexico's First Congressional District, with Albuquerque at its core. She is a 35th generation New Mexican, a single mom, and an organizer. She has used Food Stamps and experienced homelessness, and she knows the struggles of New Mexico families. She went to college and law school at the University of New Mexico, and she is still paying off her student loans like so many in our country. In Congress, she is fighting against climate change and for renewable energy jobs as Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. She is a powerful supporter of military personnel, families, and veterans on the House Armed Services Committee, and she continues to advocate for dignity, respect, and equality for all. She serves as a Vice Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, and Vice Chair of the Majority Leader's Task Force on Poverty and

Opportunity, where she serves as the Vice Chair on Families and Children Living in Poverty.

I would like to welcome these two new members. I would also like to say that Deb is the first native American to serve in Congress, I believe. So, we have a series of firsts and new energy on the committee. Welcome.

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