

Franklin Center and Ripon Society Host Second Bipartisan Chiefs of Staff Luncheon of 2019

WASHINGTON, DC — Building off the inaugural luncheon held in January, the Franklin Center and Ripon Society hosted today its second monthly gathering of Republican and Democratic Chiefs of Staff.

In attendance were a mix of 10 Republican and 5 Democratic Chiefs, who were able to converse and get to know each other on a personal level -- something exceedingly rare on Capitol Hill.

The featured speaker for this month's gathering was Commissioner Meredith Broadbent of the United States International Trade Commission.

As the current Administration works to shake up U.S. trade policy with countries ranging from China to Germany, Commissioner Broadbent's appearance comes at a particularly relevant point in time for these leaders of Capitol Hill.

With the Commissioner leading the conversation, the luncheon provided an opportunity for the Republican and Democratic Chiefs to discuss current trade policies and the proposed U.S., Mexico, and Canada Agreement (USMCA), which will be considered by Congress in the coming months.

Along with explaining the politics of past trade agreements, Commissioner Broadbent answered questions focusing on the present dynamics internationally and what can be expected in the coming months and years.

Franklin Center and Ripon Society President & CEO Jim Conzelman kicked off the event by talking about the time he himself spent as a Congressional Chief of Staff.

“When I was the Chief for former Financial Services Chairma Michael Oxley of Ohio, bipartisanship was not out of the ordinary. Today, at all levels of political relationships, from staffers to leadership, bipartisan relationships have become less common. This series of monthly lunches we are hosting aims to change that narrative and make bipartisanship more frequent here in Washington, and something that will hopefully allow all of you all to find common ground.”



Commissioner Meredith
Broadbent

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According to Conzelman, this is the 5th bipartisan event hosted by the Franklin Center and Ripon Society in 2019. The bipartisan dialogue will continue next month when the two organizations invite the Chiefs back for another lunch discussion.

The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange, a non-profit, non-partisan public policy organization which has promoted enlightened, balanced, and unbiased international policy discussion on major international issues for over 30 years. The Franklin Center also hosts bipartisan events with Members of Congress on a variety of topics here in Washington, D.C. and across the country.

For more information on the organization, please visit its website at www.franklincenter.us.