

Members:

First of all, congratulations to the fabulous Kaitlan for this amazing opportunity. I was looking forward to supporting your leadership of this important organization at a pivotal moment and though that opportunity is no longer, I am just as thrilled to watch this exciting new phase of your career.

To all of you, my incredible White House colleagues, I understand this is not the position for which you voted for me to serve. But please know I will spend every second on this board earning your support, and most importantly your trust in the weeks, months and years to come. A younger version of myself could never have imagined one day working alongside such talented journalists, let alone serving in this important role for all of you. I am both humbled and full of excitement to serve and for all that we will do together.

The importance of a free press, access to our elected leaders, and essential fact-based reporting about the politicians, policy, and people of our country has never been more important. Defending these causes is no longer enough, we must advocate for and advance them. The WHCA is crucial in these efforts and I am truly honored to serve both during and after the next presidential election when defending and preserving democracy will be at its most vital.

It is always said that the president of the board is the voice of the association but I truly believe they also serve as the ears as well. So, I promise to all of you, to listen to your concerns, advice and feedback as we go on this journey together. No president does it alone so I hope you will all serve as the largest kitchen cabinet in history as I believe there are solutions to every problem that could arise somewhere within our membership.

In that vein, I'll be reaching out to as many of you as possible over the next few months to set up meetings and "office hours" aka time at Peets near the White House to have conversations about whatever is on your mind.

Please know that I enter this new phase with a mindset of service and openness. Most importantly, counting myself as lucky to call you all colleagues in our shared quest to hold this country's most powerful people accountable on behalf of the citizenry.

Eugene