

December 27, 2018  
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Dear Senator Harris:

I am concerned about government breakdown. A powerful and unifying central government has been a hallmark of the US for the past century. It is disquieting that the onset of an (admittedly partial) government shutdown no longer seems consequential. This is only partly due to the frivolous nature of the impasse and the experience of past Republican shutdowns. It is also an indication that the central government and national cohesion have been so compromised that states are again becoming the most important governing units. This is a reflection of a worldwide retrenchment with overarching institutions emphasizing human commonality faltering and nationalist tribalism on the rise. The administration's attacks on the State Department, the EPA and HUD here as well as NATO, the G-7 and the UN elsewhere combined with cheering on Brexit and European nationalists has accelerated this destructive trend.

*Please assure me that you will defend federal institutions.*

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our national unity.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson