

Rob Portman (OH10)

February 22
2021

I was honored to give the annual recitation of the Geo Washington Farewell speech today. As I read it, I was struck by how timeless the advice and observations from the 18th century, but also how timely for the challenges we face today, and the testing of the resolve of our institutions, coming off a contentious election, a second impeachment, and at a time when our country seems hopelessly divided - mostly along partisan lines. The advice contained in President Washington's articulate farewell is well taken today: he warns of factionalism, parties that subvert the rights of union, warns of foreign influence, and even cautions against ~~foreign~~ ^{public} debt, at a time today of record debt - even as a percent of our economy. Timeless and Timely. Yet, Washington gives us hope and strength: through his words and fundamental truths of the strength of a free people. The times will be more perilous than! With that hope of optimism, Rob Portman