US lawmakers have called for continued engagement with Rwanda, describing it as a valued partner and arguing that Washington should maintain strong relationships with countries whose leadership contributes to development at home and across Africa.

The remarks were made during a Rwanda-US Congressional Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., on November 10, 2026, attended by members of Congress, Rwandan officials and other supporters of bilateral cooperation.

US Congressman Trent Kelly, who co-hosted the gathering with Rwanda's Embassy in the United States, praised Rwanda's leadership and said the country's contribution extended beyond its borders.



"Rwanda is a special country, President Kagame is a special person. He does a lot not only for Rwanda but for the whole of Africa," Kelly said.

He argued that the United States should maintain close relationships with partners demonstrating commitment and the capacity to deliver results.

"When we have people doing the right things, in the right way and with the right heart, we should invest in them," he said.

Kelly added that he had consistently regarded Rwanda as a friend and intended to maintain that position.

Representative Brett Guthrie, chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, said his experience visiting Rwanda had challenged the picture of the country he previously held.

Guthrie said his earlier impression had been shaped largely by a film, but that seeing Rwanda's institutions, organised systems, hardworking population and respect for the law had changed his assessment.

He said those were among the qualities the United States seeks in its international partners and recommended Rwanda to people looking for opportunities in Africa.

The remarks came as Rwanda's representatives sought to reinforce the role of congressional engagement in maintaining bilateral relations.

Rwanda’s Ambassador to the United States, Mathilde Mukantabana, thanked members of Congress for their leadership, friendship and continued commitment to strengthening ties between the two countries.

Dr Usta Kaitesi,Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said the United States had remained an important partner in Rwanda’s recovery and development, including efforts to rebuild communities and promote innovation.

The congressional gathering was jointly organised by the Rwandan Embassy and Kelly. It provided a platform for lawmakers and Rwandan officials to reaffirm their support for continued cooperation, although no new bilateral agreement or policy announcement was reported at the event.