2018.07.27 Issues/Addresses

**CONSUMER PROTECTIONS, WORKING CONDITIONS, and ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

The *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* reports: “Montana’s governor and the state Department of Revenue filed a lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of the Treasury Tuesday over a recent decision to end the requirement that some tax-exempt groups disclose the identities of their major donors [for example, National Rifle Association monies of possible foreign origin]. The lawsuit seeks to block policy changes that benefit social welfare, unions and business associations that spend millions of dollars on political ads…. Governor Steve Bullock said in a statement. ‘The IRS and the administration are sending absolutely the wrong message at the wrong time: Spend money to get corporate interests elected and we’ll work to cover your tracks.’… The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Great Falls, argues the July 16 policy change would allow organizations to take unlimited corporate, or even foreign, contributions to influence elections.”

**THANKS** for taking this move to

• **Governor Steve Bullock**, Office of the Governor, P. O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801, (406) 444-3111

**ASK** our State Attorney General whether California might join Montana’s suit or take similar action

• **Xavier Becerra**, California Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550, (916) 445-9555

The Senate is currently considering adding a family and medical leave benefit to social security, but there are two proposals being discussed. The “Rubanka” version (courtesy of Marco Rubio and Ivanka Trump—no number yet that I’ve been able to find) would basically charge an individual’s retirement benefits if they take family/medical leave, with estimates that this may lower that person’s ultimate social security benefit by 4.5% per event. S.337, the “FAMILY Act,” introduced by Kirsten Gillibrand and co-sponsored by both our Senators (among others) does not include these penalties. S.337 is currently with the Senate Finance Committee.

**THANKS** for authoring S.337 to

• **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-NY), 478 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4451

**THANKS** for cosponsoring this legislation to

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**FIRMLY** explain to key Finance Committee members that it’s time for the U.S. to join the rest of the world in providing family and medical leave for new parents and that S.337 is superior to other proposals on the table because one shouldn’t have to jeopardize one’s retirement in order to take family/medical leave

• **Senator Orrin Hatch** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

• **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

The Trump administration has announced up to $12 billion in emergency aid to farmers caught in an escalating trade war, seeking to temper growing Republican dissent over President Trump’s trade policies. This appears to be an effort to limit damage the tariffs (and their effect on farm incomes) might do before the midterm elections in November. The *Washington Post* quotes Republican economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, as observing “This [aid] is a terrible idea. These programs exist to insure farmers against the vagaries of nature and crop cycles. They are not there to offset bad policy. Two wrongs don’t make a right.” As the *Post* goes on to note, “It is unusual for the government to extend financial bailouts to U.S. farmers on the basis of trade-related circumstances precipitated by the White House.” In other words, if our trade policies are hurting farmers, it’s time to rethink those policies. The administration has the power to issue this aid without Congressional approval, but that doesn’t mean Congress should quietly accept the administration’s actions.

**TELL** our Congresspeople that what we need is reasoned trade policy, not a blank check to buy off those who might show their discontent regarding this trade policy at the polls in November

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**ELECTIONS**

S.3049, the “Protecting American Votes and Elections Act,” would provide two important protections for our elections. It requires both paper ballots and statistically rigorous “risk-limiting” audits for all federal elections—the two steps cited by election experts as necessary to give voters confidence that election results have not been changed by foreign governments or other hackers. At the moment, S.3049 is stuck in the Senate Rules Committee and has only five co-sponsors (neither Feinstein nor Harris is currently co-sponsoring). Equivalent legislation, H.R.6093 has been introduced in the House and is currently before the Administration and the Science, Space, and Technology Committees. H.R.6093 currently has no cosponsors.

**TELL** key Rules Committee members we have proof our elections have been interfered with in the past and desperately need these protections now

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules Committee, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5721

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington SC 20510, (202) 224-3244

**ASK** our Senators to co-sponsor this legislation and fight for its passage (note: Feinstein is a member of the Rules Committee, so she can be taking action now)

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**TELL** key Administration and Science, Space, and Technology Committee members we have proof our elections have been interfered with in the past and desperately need these protections now

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

• **Representative Lamar Smith** (R-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Frank D. Lucas** (R-OK), Vice-Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

Trump’s Treasury Department made it easier for anonymous foreign donors to funnel dark money into nonprofits , the sort of activity that has led to current concerns about Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election via donations to the National Rifle Association. This move will eliminate transparency and keep officials and lawmakers from “following the money.” The Disclose Act, S.3150, which has 48 sponsors—among them Feinstein and Harris—and which is currently sitting in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, would require donor disclosure of all organizations spending money on federal elections.

**THANKS** for co-sponsoring and for fighting to keep “dark money” out of our elections to

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**URGE** immediate movement of S.3150 from the Rules and Administration Committee to the full Senate

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules Committee, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5721

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington SC 20510, (202) 224-3244

It appears quite likely that Russian money was funneled through the National Rifle Association in support of Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, a violation of U.S. election law. We need a thorough, nonpartisan investigation of this possibility and a report of all findings to the American public.

ASK key members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees to work together to protect our democracy by initiating such an investigation

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

The *New York Times* reports: House Republicans on [July 19] voted down a Democratic effort to increase election security spending, as Democrats accused the GOP of refusing to stand up to Russia over interference in U.S. elections. In a vote along party lines, Republicans rejected Democrats’ motion for more funding, unmoved by Democrats’ vigorous pleas and chants of “USA! USA!” on the House floor. The election security funding vote came amid a national controversy over Russian election interference, and it comes days after President Trump appeared to accept Russian President Vladimir Putin’s contention that Russia did not intervene in the 2016 presidential race—even though U.S. intelligence agencies say otherwise.”

**CASTIGATE** House Republican leadership for putting party politics ahead of secure elections and **REMIND** them that Americans are paying attention

• Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

• **Representative Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA), Majority Leader, 2421 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2915

• **Representative Steve Scalise** (R-LA), Majority Whip, 2338 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3015

• **Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers** (R-WA), Republican Conference Chair, 1314 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2006

• **Representative Luke Messer** (R-IN), Republican Policy Committee Chair, 1230 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3021

*Motherboard* reports: “The nation's top voting machine maker has admitted in a letter to a federal lawmaker that the company installed remote-access software on election-management systems it sold over a period of six years, raising questions about the security of those systems and the integrity of elections that were conducted with them…. [In February] a spokesperson said ES&S had never installed pcAnywhere on any election system it sold. ‘None of the employees, … including long-tenured employees, has any knowledge that our voting systems have ever been sold with remote-access software.’… Election-management systems are not the voting terminals that voters use to cast their ballots, but are just as critical: they sit in county election offices and contain software that in some counties is used to program all the voting machines used in the county; the systems also tabulate final results aggregated from voting machines…. [Senator Ron Wyden] told *Motherboard* that installing remote-access software and modems on election equipment ‘is the worst decision for security short of leaving ballot boxes on a Moscow street corner.’”

**TELL** key Congressional committee members that you expect them to be investigating and responding to this potential vulnerability in our election system

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules Committee, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5721

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington SC 20510, (202) 224-3244

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Senate Rules Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), Chair, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

• **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-8281

• **Representative Lamar Smith** (R-TX), Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Frank D. Lucas** (R-OK), Vice-Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

• **Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson** (D-TX), Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6371

Purging of voter rolls is rising. In fact, from 2014 to just before the 2016 presidential election, nearly sixteen million voters were purged from states’ rolls, a significant increase over previous years.

**DEMAND** a Congressional investigation of these purges and legislation that places clear limits on purges so they cannot be used for partisan purposes

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202).224- 2541

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules Committee, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5721

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington SC 20510, (202) 224-3244

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Senate Rules Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

While the 2020 Census may not seem like an election issue at first glance, it very much is one. Census population counts are used to determine the number of House Representatives each state will receive. With a citizenship question planned for the 2020 census (though this is being contested in court) and an immigrant-hostile administration in power, many immigrants, both naturalized and undocumented are apt to choose not to respond to the census at all. Because immigrants are concentrated in large cities in blue states, a census that discourages immigrant participation is likely to leave blue states significantly underrepresented in Congress—and in the distribution of federal funds—a situation which would then remain in place until the next census in 2030. While this issue makes its way through the courts, we can continue to let the administration and our Congresspeople know that we oppose a citizenship question and see it as a partisan attempt aimed at reducing resources for blue states.

**INFORM** the Commerce Secretary that you oppose the clearly partisan addition of a citizenship question to the census and **OBJECT** to your tax dollars being spent to defend this partisanship in court

• **Wilbur Ross**, Secretary of Commerce, Department of Commerce, Office of the Secretary, Office of Human Resources Management, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 50003, Washington DC 20230, (202) 482-2000

**EXPLAIN** to key members of Congressional committees overseeing the census that you strongly object to the citizenship question and the miscount it will result in

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

**ASK** Feinstein and Panetta for continued attention to this issue

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

At a time when many politicians seem determined to prune voter rolls as harshly as possible, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill offered home visits and his own mobile phone number to help register and obtain ID cards for citizens who could not get to registration centers.

**THANKS** for understanding that democracy requires fair and full voting and for going the extra mile to ensure all people can vote.

• **John Merrill**, Secretary of State, P.O. Box 5616, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5616

In July, the Senate Rules Committee held a hearing on election security. Only one of the three election machine vendors invited to the hearing bothered to show up—Hart InterCivic. Election Systems & Software (ESS) and Dominion were no-shows, which is particularly unacceptable given what we know about real, purposeful election hacking that the U.S. has already experienced. These two companies account for 80% of election machinery in use in the U.S. The Ranking Member of the Rules Committee, Amy Klobuchar, is demanding further information from these companies.

**DEMAND** that ESS and Dominion respond to Congressional requests and provide the information needed to ensure our votes our safe

• **Tom Burt**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Elections Systems & Software, LLC, 11208 John Gault Blvd., Omaha, NE 68137, (877) 377-8683

• **Kathy Rogers**, Senior Vice President for Government Relations, Elections Systems & Software, LLC, 11208 John Gault Blvd., Omaha, NE 68137, (877) 377-8683

• **John Polous**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., 1201 18Th St., Suite 210, Denver, CO 80202, (866) 654-8683

• **Kay Stimson**, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., 1201 18Th St., Suite 210, Denver, CO 80202, (866) 654-8683

**ASK** the Rules Committee Chair how he plans to respond to these no-shows and what affect they will have on efforts to secure our elections

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Chair, Senate Rules Committee, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5721

**THANK** the Rules Committee’s Ranking Member for demanding further information

• **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington SC 20510, (202) 224-3244

**ASK** our Senator sitting on the Rules Committee to join Klobuchar in demanding more information

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

**ENVIRONMENT**

H.R. 5911, the “Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act,” would repeal the provision of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which required that the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be opened to oil and gas development. This legislation is currently before the House Committee on Natural Resources Committee’s Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee.

**TELL** key members of the Natural Resources Committee and the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee that you want to see action on S.5911 before irreparable damage is done to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

• **Representative Paul Gosar** (R-AZ), Chair, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Paul Cook** (R-CA), Vice-Chair, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Alan Lowenthal** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Rob Bishop** (R-UT), Chair, Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Don Young** (R-AK), Chair Emeritus, Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Louie Gohmert** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

• **Representative Raúl Grijalva** (D-AZ), Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2761

**ASK** our Representative to co-sponsor this legislation because, living on the Central Coast, he should be well aware of the need to protect coastal lands

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The “Contaminant and Lead Electronic Accounting and Reporting Requirements for Drinking Water Act,” S.3192, would modernize reporting requirements for contaminants, including lead, in drinking water. S.3192 is currently with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Kamala Harris is a co-sponsor.

**THANKS** for co-sponsoring S.3192 to

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**URGE** quick movement of S.3192 through committee from

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-KY), Chair, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

H.R.6107, the Ending Duplicative Permitting Act,” has passed out of committee and can now come before a vote of the full House. H.R.6107 will end the need for a public lands permit when a company drills on private land into resources that lie underneath the surface on public lands. Currently, if a company wants to take subsurface resources that partly lie within public lands, it needs a permit to disturb those lands, H.R.6107 would eliminate that requirement.

**TELL** our Representative that we’re deeply concerned about this threat to public lands and want him to speak up forcefully in opposition to it

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

A group of Republican Senators has pushed Trump to submit the Kigali Amendment to the Senate for ratification. This treaty would phase out hydrofluorocarbons, a super-potent greenhouse gas commonly used in air conditioning and refrigerators.

**ASK** our Senators to join this push and publicly commit to voting for this treaty and to insisting Trump support it—this is a great opportunity for bipartisanship

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

The Trump administration suppressed an Environmental Protection Agency report that warns that most Americans inhale enough formaldehyde vapor in the course of daily life to put them at risk of developing leukemia and other ailments. Meanwhile, Scott Pruitt’s aides mad sure Pruitt’s new desk was kept in storage until sufficient time for off-gassing had passed, so the (former) Environmental Protection Agency Director wouldn’t be exposed to the formaldehyde fumes that result from furniture manufacturing processes.

**INSIST** on legislation that calls for the publication of all reports having to do with public health so that it’s not just high-level administrators who can make informed choices about chemicals they may be exposed to

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-KY), Chair, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

*Countable* reports: “On [July 17], the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule loosening requirements for handling toxic waste from coal combustion.… Coal combustion results in coal waste—called coal ash**—**that is laced with heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury, and lead, as well as other toxins that can contaminate water and raise cancer risk with long-term exposure. Coal ash, which is stored at more than 400 power plants across the U.S., has contaminated waterways in two high-profile spills in Tennessee and North Carolina**.** A recentreview of new monitoring datafrom Ohio Valley coal ash ponds shows groundwater contamination is widespread. Utilities have long argued that they need flexibility in managing coal ash. These rule changes could save the industry $31 million annually.The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights published a study in September 2016 that said the EPA systematically delays responding to civil rights complaints on environmental hazards, and can't provide adequate relief when it does. The Commission said the EPA failed to comply with environmental justice requirements by not addressing impacts of coal ash waste disposal in predominantly minority, low-income communities.”

**INFORM** the EPA, key Congressional committee members, and our Congresspeople that this rule change is unacceptable, not only harming the environment, but also perpetuating a violation of civil rights

• **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20460, 202-564-4700

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-KY), Chair, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**• Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Representative Jimmy Panetta reports: “I cosponsored legislation to strengthen protections for national monuments against the Trump administration’s attacks on public lands. The America’s Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States (ANTIQUITIES) Act of 2018 is the House companion to Senator Tom Udall’s (D-NM) ANTIQUITIES Act (S. 2354) and would preserve opportunities for hunting, tourism, scientific research, conservation, and cultural uses in our national monuments and protect them against any potential future attacks by President Donald Trump. The ANIQUITIES Act would permanently protect and enhance our nation’s monuments by:
• Declaring Congress’ support for the 51 national monuments established by presidents in both parties between January 1996 and April 2017, including Fort Ord National Monument and the California Coastal National Monument located in California’s 20th congressional district.
• Reiterating existing law that makes clear that presidential proclamations designating national monuments are valid and can only be reduced or diminished by an act of Congress—the President lacks the legal authority to do so under the Antiquities Act.
• Requiring national monuments be surveyed, mapped and that management plans be completed in two years—in the same manner as congressionally designated national monuments. It also ensures that national monuments receive additional resources so they will continue to meet their full potential of providing unmatched economic, recreational, and cultural benefits to their states and to the nation.
• Expanding protection for the Bears Ears National Monument to over 1.9 million acres, based on the lands identified in the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition’s proposal that would protect the full array of over 100,000 cultural and archaeological sites.
• Designating over 249,000 acres of land as wilderness within Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains national monuments.
• Designating over 111,000 acres of land as wilderness in Gold Butte National Monument”

**THANKS** for introducing this necessary, timely legislation to

**• Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**ETHICS**

According to *Politico*, “former Health and Human Services [HHS] Secretary Tom Price took 20 trips that violated federal requirements, according to a federal auditor that urged the department… to recover at least $341,000 in wasted spending. The audit from the HHS inspector general, which came about 10 months after Price’s resignation, found he and his staff spent more than $1.2 million on travel during his tenure at HHS. The report identified roughly $480,000 in costs from chartered planes and another $700,000 in military flights. A department spokesman said HHS will seek guidance from the Justice Department ‘whether there is legal basis for recoupment.’” Whether or not we can recoup any of Price’s expenditures, we can make sure this doesn’t happen again by passing H.R.6295, the “Cut the Perks Act,” which requires repayment of monies illegally spent by political appointees. H.R.6295, which is currently before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has a small, bipartisan group of co-sponsors.

**TELL** key Oversight and Government Reform Committee members that, while we wish we lived in a nation where we could trust political appointees to act honorably, we don’t—and therefor need this legislation

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2471 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5051

**REQUEST** that our Representative join the list of co-sponsors

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

The *American Civil Liberties Union* reports: “In 2016, Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a policy advising against the detention of pregnant women. The rationale seemed simple enough: incarceration creates serious health risks for expectant mothers, and detention facilities are not equipped to serve those unique needs. But in December 2017, Thomas Homan, the acting director of ICE, announced that the agency would change that directive to comply with President Trump’s executive order on immigration and eliminate the presumption of release for pregnant women. In addition, the policy change allows ICE to remove critical reporting procedures required for oversight of the detention system, making it extremely difficult to monitor the treatment of pregnant women, despite evidence that such oversight is desperately needed…. When the change in ICE policy became public knowledge this spring, it prompted immediate outrage by medical associations, human rights groups, immigrants’ rights groups, and religious organizations…. In September 2017, the ACLU and seven other organizations filed a complaint with the Department of Homeland Security’s Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and its Office of Inspector General detailing those conditions. The complaint included testimony from 10 women, some of whom suffered miscarriages while in detention.” Now, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Patty Murray, has introduced the “Stop Shackling and Detaining Pregnant Women Act,” S.3225. This legislation would require ICE to “reinstate the presumption of release of pregnant women and youth, set minimum standards for health care, prohibit shackling, and require public reporting on the detention of pregnant women.” S.3225 is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Harris and Feinstein are both co-sponsors.

**THANKS** to our Senators, who both sit on the Judiciary Committee, for taking action on this immensely important issue

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**INSIST** that the Judiciary Committee Chair prioritize this legislation

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

While the status of the Trump administration’s “Zero tolerance policy regarding undocumented immigrants plays out in the courts, as families are slowly reunited (often at a charge), and as the government continues to separate incoming families, one fact that emerges is that we desperately need Congressional investigations to understand how these policies have been administered. In particular, we need investigation of

1. conditions within immigration detention facilities

2. credible allegations of sexual assault and abuse against women in immigration detention facilities

3. credible allegations of mistreatment of pregnant women in immigration detention facilities

4. credible allegations of inadequate medical care in immigration detention facilities

5. the detention of children in office buildings not intended for residence

6. the ties between the administration and private operators profiting from these detention facilities

7. the shoddy recordkeeping hindering timely family reunification and the apparent underlying assumption that family reunification was never a concern to begin with

8. who is responsible for any abuses taking place and the ways in which they must be held accountable

**INSIST** that key immigration officials commit to a nonpartisan investigation these topics

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Ronald Vitiello**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement**,** 500 12th St. SW, Washington D.C. 20536, (866) DHS-2-ICE

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Steven Wagner**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, (202) 401-9200

• **Scott Lloyd**, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C ST SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 401-9246

**URGE** our Congresspeople to be relentless in demanding thorough investigation of the many potential abuses suffered by those in immigration detention facilities and the creation of an ongoing internal auditing organization charged with preventing such abuses in the future

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Not surprisingly, the news about families at the border is worse than originally reported. In fact, t**he Trump administration deported at least 463 parents without their children**, who were taken from them at the border. Apparently, those parents may not be “eligible” to be reunited with their children. The administration has acknowledged that the 463 cases do not represent the final tally of migrant parents who have been deported while their children remain inside U.S. detention centers.

**DEMAND** resignations from the Secretaries of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services for their role overseeing these human rights abuses

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

From *Rogan’s List* and *Americans of Conscience Checklist*: The Trump administration is stepping up efforts to curb legal immigration, taking a series of actions in recent weeks that could lead to deportation for people already granted citizenship. Trump has a new task force seeking to deport naturalized citizens. It’s a dangerous trend: First DACA and Dreamers. Then legal refugees and asylees. Now passport-holding citizens. Our 20 million naturalized citizens are Americans. The administrative changes highlight how Trump officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions and White House adviser Stephen Miller, aren’t just seeking to curtail illegal immigration — they’re also taking steps against naturalized citizens in an effort to reduce the number of foreign-born residents in the U.S.

ASK our Congresspeople why are my tax dollars funding this anti-immigrant, mass-deportation agenda? REMIND them we have always been a melting pot, and we should keep it that way.

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

*Kaiser Health News* has learned from the Dept. of Justice that the “Trump administration has summoned at least 70 children under 1 year old to immigration court for their own deportation proceedings since Oct. 1.” As “zero tolerance” increases the number of these non-speaking children who are usually “representing” themselves. This raised questions of how these infants represent themselves, where they are deported/released to, and to whom they are released or returned.

**DEMAND** that Administration officials, Congressional leaders, and our own Congresspeople take action now to understand what is happening to these children and to ensure fair treatment of and representation for them

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (877) 696-6775

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202).224- 2541

• **Representative Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “While the ‘zero tolerance’ policy and subsequent separation is a recent policy change, we can admit that the immigration situation at the border has not been ideal. While time in detention has always been way too long, it got much worse last fall when the Trump administration rescinded Obama’s plan to scale back private prisons. ‘Trump has every incentive to do so: profiteering prison companies donated heavily to his campaign’. Let’s double down efforts to have our representatives pass the ‘Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act of 2017,’ H.R.3923.” This legislation is currently with the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security and with the House Homeland Security Committee.

**ASK** our Representative to sign on

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**TELL** key committee members that we’re sick of private companies raking in profits by engaging in human and civil rights abuses and want action on H.R.3923

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee, H2-176 FHOB, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

**GENERAL DECENCY**

*Buzzfeed* reports that detained parents are being steeply charged for making phone calls to their children. “In a letter sent to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement obtained by *BuzzFeed News*, about 150 Democratic members of Congress argued that the practice of charging ‘exorbitant’ prices to place phone calls from immigrant detention violates ICE's national standards. Detained immigrants are able to call specific lawyers and government help lines for free, according to the agency's telephone access standards. The standards also state that facilities should enable detainees to make direct or free calls to ‘immediate family or others for detainees in personal and family emergencies,’ and that they should have ‘equitable access to reasonably priced telephone services’—which the letter from Congress points out. For anyone else, detainees or the people they are contacting are responsible for the cost of the phone call. Trying to talk to your child after being forcibly separated at the border, often resulting in weeks of no contact, should quantify as an emergency, the lawmakers said…. [M]any detainees are paying anywhere from 25 cents to $8 a minute to talk to their children, according to the Texas Tribune and NPR— a steep price for cash-strapped detainees to repeatedly pay. When they can afford to, the calls are short and sparse, usually lasting about 10 minutes. As the Tribune has reported, a few major, private companies dominate the telecommunication services across the country's vast web of detention and correctional facilities, greatly profiting from the influx of detained immigrants funneled into centers to await immigration proceedings.”

**TELL** our Congresspeople that we need an immediate end to this financial abuse of people whose human rights are already being trampled

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Deputy District Attorney Michael Selyem of San Bernardino apparently has a [long history](https://twitter.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0f8a9a917f9d55433678aefcb&id=fac1de1049&e=a61d221f2a) of vulgar, racist, and threatening statements. In July Selyem tweeted about Maxine Waters: “Being a loud-mouthed c--t in the ghetto you would think someone would have shot this b---h by now.” And, seriously, this is not a one-off; it’s typical of his public rhetoric. As Shaun King from Real Justice puts it: "And this man is expected to give equal and fair justice to all? To women? To communities of color? That’s impossible. Any man who not only thinks like that, but is bold enough to share it publicly, is a danger to us all."

**COURTEOUSLY**, but **CLEARLY** tell the San Bernardino District Attorney how you feel about Selyem serving as Deputy District Attorney, when that position requires treating all citizens with the fairness and respect they have a right to expect from a public servant and **SUGGEST** action—retraining, reassignment, a critical evaluation during his next review—be taken

• **Mike Ramos**, District Attorney, 303 West 3rd St., San Bernardino, CA 92415, (909) 382-3800

The *Mercury News* (San Jose) argues: “In May, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said PG&E was responsible for three fires in October in Nevada and Butte counties. Two weeks later, Cal Fire pinned the blame on PG&E for twelve of the destructive fires that raged in Northern California’s wine country in October. Cal Fire said that the majority of the wildfires were caused by tree limbs making contact with power lines. Northern Californians are still waiting for Cal Fire to issue its report on the cause of the Tubbs Fire, which killed 24 people and destroyed 5,000 homes and caused an estimated $1.2 billion in damages. All told, 43 people died in the wine country fires. The current California standard says that utilities must be ‘reasonable and prudent in maintaining their equipment.’ SB-1088 would change the maintenance responsibility standard for utilities to ‘substantial compliance.’ Good luck determining what that means, because the bill doesn’t include a definition. But it likely isn’t good for California homeowners.” The *Mercury News* also argues, “The real problem [with current liability regulations] is that PG&E too often has failed to live up to its maintenance obligations. Nor did PG&E purchase enough insurance coverage to cover the utility’s potential liability for the 2017 wildfires.”

**FIRMLY** explain to our Governor and state legislators that we don’t want to see PG&E let off the hook for the substantial role it played in last summer’s fires resulting in extensive loss of life and property and **OBJECT** to SB-1088

• **Governor Edmund G. Brown**, Ex Officio Regent, c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841

• **Senator Bill Monning**, Member, Senate Budget Committee 3, 701 Ocean St. #318a, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., #318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (813) 768-3035

From *Rogan’s List*: “NBC news reported… that FEMA [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] has stalled on or denied 79% of appeals for assistance from Puerto Rican residents needing to rebuild their homes that were damaged by last year’s hurricanes. Puerto Rico has been struggling to recover from last year’s hurricane and now faces the start of a new hurricane season. The good news is that the House Appropriations Committee has recently accepted Representative Barbara Lee’s amendment to extend disaster unemployment assistance for a full year in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico as they rebuild from the devastating hurricanes.

**TELL** the Director of FEMA that we expect him to do better for the Puerto Rican citizens of our country and perhaps **POINT OUT** the recent action by the House Appropriations Committee

• **William Brock Long**, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C St. SW, Washington DC 20472, (202) 646-2500

**ALERT** our Congresspeople to the need for continuing vigilance on this front

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

The Senate has confirmed Robert Wilkie, Trump’s nominee to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). While *CNN* described this confirmation hearing as “largely noncontroversial,” Wilkie has a track record that should be of concern to anyone who wants to see fair treatment for all veterans within the VA. The *Washington Post* described Wilkie as having “showed a willingness to fight on the front lines of his bosses’ culture wars. This year, he led efforts to justify Trump’s near wholesale ban on transgender troops. In 1997, he rebutted a Democratic proposal to ensure equal pay for working women. And in 1993, he publicly defended a failed push by Helms to support an organization whose logo included the Confederate flag.” According to the *Post*, “Paul Rieckhoff, founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a leading advocacy group, said Wilkie must demonstrate that he doesn’t hold antiquated views and that he can serve all veterans. ‘He has to show he is loyal to veterans and not a partisan agenda.’” We can’t prevent his confirmation, but we can remind our Senators of his leanings and ask that they keep his activities closely monitored.

**SHARE** your concerns about this confirmation with our Senators (both of whom voted “nay”)

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**GUNS**

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, S.446, has been with the Senate Judiciary Committee since February, 2017. This legislation would allow an individual with a concealed carry permit from *any* state to carry a concealed weapon in *every* state, regardless of individual states’ firearms policies. It’s time to contact key members of this committee, including our own Senators to object to this dangerous legislation that, among other things, trespasses on states’ rights.

**CONDEMN** this dangerous piece of legislation to

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**HEALTHCARE and HEALTH**

 “The Chronic Care Act,” which was included in budget legislation signed recently by President Trump sounds great: it allows Medicare Advantage plans to offer new benefits like social and medical services, home improvements like wheelchair ramps, transportation to doctor’s offices and home delivery of hot meals. However, two-thirds of seniors use Medicare (government delivered services), not Medicare Advantage (services delivered by private providers) plans. Bottom line: the effect of this law is to encourage the privatization of Medicare.

**TELL** Medicare administrator Seema Verma that we want these benefits extended to all Medicare recipients, not just those who sign up with private insurers

• **Seema Verma**, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore MD 21244, (877) 267-2323

From Rogan’s List: “On July 31, a new unknown company called Financial Administration Management, will be taking over the USDA [Unites States Department of Food and Agriculture] contract, and they do not have the software to convert SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] benefits into EBT [Electronic Benefit Transfer] currency that can be used at farmer’s markets. This not only affects people’s ability to access fresh, healthy food, which has been shown to lower national health care costs, it also impacts the economic well-being of farmers, who depend on this population as part of their customer base.”

ASK our Congresspeople to intervene to make sure SNAP benefits can still be used for healthy, local food (note: that Jimmy Panetta sits on the House Agriculture Committee)

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

H.R.6340, the “Capping Prescription Costs Act,” would do exactly what its title suggests. It is currently before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

**ASK** key members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for a “yea” vote on this legislation, perhaps while **POINTING OUT** that reduced prescription drug costs were one of the things our Republic President promised to deliver while making America great again

• **Representative Greg Walden** (R-OR), Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

• **Representative Frank Pallone** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

The *Tribune* (San Luis Obispo) reports: “A pride flag being flown by the [San Luis Obispo] History Center was stolen two weeks ago, and now the museum is fighting accusations it is politically and socially biased. The organization also has faced criticisms that it’s too politically progressive and shouldn’t be partnering with the Central Coast Queer Archive Project, which began last January and involves a community-based, volunteer effort documenting LGBTQ people’s Central Coast experiences…. The pride flag, which featured the traditional rainbow design, was ripped off of a display at the nonprofit museum… during the city’s annual pride celebration. “Our mission is to archive history and preserve it for future generations,” [center Board of Directors President Bill] McCarthy said. ‘We flew a pride banner, not because we’re politically or socially minded, but to partner with people in our community who are part of the county’s culture.’”

**THANK** the History Center for recognizing that a county’s history includes the lives of *all* its residents and **URGE** them to remain inclusive

• **The Board of Directors**, San Luis Obispo County History Center, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, (805) 543-o638

The House Appropriations Committee has approved an amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education funding bill for FY2019 that would allow federally funded child welfare services to discriminate against qualified prospective parents if they were a same-sex couple.

**INSIST** that our Congresspeople fight this amendment fiercely when the funding measures reaches the floors of both houses of Congress

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

H.R.6450, the “Old Glory Act,” would prevent any flag besides the American flag from being flown at any U.S. embassy. While this might seem a minor point at first, it becomes more serious when one considers the kinds of flags this legislation is intended to keep off our poles: POW/MIA flags? Flags of international organizations? Gay pride flags? No one has suggested that any other flag should fly *above* the U.S. flag, so why deny our embassies the right to remember missing veterans, celebrate international alliances, and honor the diverse populations that the U.S. is composed of? The “Old Glory Act” is currently with the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

**EXPLAIN** to key House Foreign Affairs Committee members that “Old Glory” doesn’t need to be honored by silencing other voices and **NOTE** that this legislation is an unnecessary waste of time and taxpayer dollars

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464

The “Continue American Safety Act (CASA),” H.R.6325 would extend temporary protected status (TPS) for individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. It is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

**ASK** our Representative to co-sponsor this legislation

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**EXPLAIN** to key House Judiciary Committee members that at a time when the administration is determined to rid our countries of immigrants and foreign residents—even those here legally—we need to protect those who would face violence and significant economic damage if forced to leave the U.S. and **ADD** that for the children of many of these individuals, the U.S. is the only home they’ve ever known

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

AB-931, “Criminal Procedure: Use of Force by Peace Officers,” would change the standard for when police are allowed to use lethal force from “reasonable” to “necessary.”

**INFORM** our state legislators that we need this reasonable modification to regulationbs covering use of deadly force by police officers

• **Senator Bill Monning**, Member, Senate Budget Committee 3, 701 Ocean St. #318a, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., #318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (813) 768-3035

Both the Senate and the House are currently considering legislation to end racial and religious profiling. In the Senate, this legislation is S.411. It is with the Judiciary Committee—both our Senators sit on this committee and are co-sponsors of this legislation. In the House, this legislation is H.R.1498. It is currently with the House Judiciary Committee. H.R.1498 has seventy-nine co-sponsors; our Jimmy Panetta is not among them.

**URGE** key committee members to pass legislation to curb racial and religious profiling

• **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6050, (202) 224-5225

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

**ASK** our Representative to support this legislation and to join the list of co-sponsors

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Eyewitness identifications are known to be unreliable and often play a role in false convictions. SB-923 would bring California in line with nineteen states that have already adopted best practices statewide to improve eyewitness identification procedures. The bill would ensure that all law enforcement agencies follow basic minimum requirements for accuracy and reliability: 1) the administrator of the eyewitness procedure must be blind or blinded to the identity of the suspect to ensure that a witness is not inadvertently cued to select a particular person; 2) appropriate fillers must be used to make sure the suspect does not stand out in any way; 3) the eyewitness must be properly admonished prior to the procedure, including informing the witness that the perpetrator may or may not be in the photo array or lineup; 4) the eyewitness must provide a statement of confidence following the identification; and 5) the entire procedure must be video recorded.

**URGE** our state legislators to support this fair legislation that will limit false identifications and false convictions

• **Senator Bill Monning**, Member, Senate Budget Committee 3, 701 Ocean St. #318a, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-0401

• **Assemblymember Mark Stone** [Santa Cruz], 701 Ocean St., #318b, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 425-1503

• **Assemblymember Anna Caballero** [Watsonville], 275 Main St., Suite 400, Watsonville, CA 95076, (813) 768-3035

From *Rogan’s List*: “In a shocking policy change, the Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) recently dealt a significant blow to legal services for survivors of human trafficking…. Specifically, the agency’s belated announcements for $77 million of fiscal 2018 human trafficking funding included language for the first time ever prohibiting the use of grants to help survivors clear their criminal records that resulted from their victimization.”

**TELL** our Congresspeople that this funding needs to be restored so that these victims can get their records expunged for criminal activities while under coercion so that they are able to find jobs and housing and a way to a better life

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**PROTEST** this unkind, short-sited move by the Justice Department’s Office for Victims of Crimes

• **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

• **Darlene Hutchinson Biehl**, Director, Office for Victims of Crimes, 810 7th St. NW, Washington DC 2053, (800) 363-0441

A new front has opened up in the struggle to hold the Trump administration accountable for its family separation policies. *Politico* reports that “[t]he Mexican government’s human rights arm, along with its counterparts from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Honduras, launched a formal complaint against the Trump administration at the Organization of American States [OAS]…. [I]n appealing to the OAS, the five agencies are invoking a little-known tool in international law. Since the 1948 launch of the OAS, the United States has been bound by the terms of the Inter-American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, known as the Bogotá Declaration, [which] obliged the states of the Americas to protect ‘the right to life, liberty and the security’ of every human being, to give protection to families and to grant ‘all children … the right to special protection, care and aid.’ [T]he complaint now goes to the OAS’ Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR), a panel of seven human rights experts empowered to ask member states to change their policies or make other types of reparations for human rights abuses. In urgent situations in which there is a risk of irreversible damage, the commission can also order what are called ‘precautionary measures’ to safeguard rights—something Mexico specifically asked for on the separation policy.” The IACHR does not have an enforcement mechanism it can use with the U.S., should the U.S. be found to be violating human rights. Such a decision, nonetheless would shine a bright, multinational light on the abusive immigration enforcement policies of the Trump administration.

**SHARE** your support for this move with the seven members of the IACHR

• **Margarette May Macaulay**, President, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

• **Esmeralda Arosemena de Trotiño**, First Vice-President, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

• **Luis Ernesto Vargas Silva**, Second Vice-President, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

• **Francisco José Eguiguren Praeli**, Member, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

• **Joel Hernández García**, Member, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

• **Antonia Urrejola Noguera**, Member, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

• **Flávia Piovesan**, Member, The Inter-American Council on Human Rights, 1889 F St. NW, Washington DC 20006, (202) 370-9000

**INTERNATIONAL**

Representative Jimmy Panetta reports: “I have introduced the No NATO Withdrawal Act, H.R. 6530, to reassert Congressional support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the longest-standing and most successful military alliance in the world. The bill is cosponsored by Republican co-lead, Congressman Steve Knight (R-CA). This bipartisan bill would prohibit funds from being used to withdraw the United States from NATO. Additionally, it states that it is the policy of the United States to remain a member in good standing of NATO, to reject any efforts to withdraw from the alliance, and to continue to work with member nations to ensure each country spends at least 2 percent of its GDP on defense spending, in accordance with the 2014 NATO Wales Summit agreement. The NATO alliance is a pillar of international peace, stability, and security, and serves as a deterrent against aggression and destabilization. In the face of Russia’s threats and attacks on American and allied interests, Congress must take a stand and solidify our commitment to our allies. We must promote our shared values of freedom, equality, and empowerment by continuing to invest in the institutions, programs, and people that enhance our national security. I thank my Republican and Democratic colleagues for joining me in advancing this important legislation.” This legislation is currently before the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees—Panetta is a member of the latter.

**THANKS** to our Representative for introducing this legislation

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**REQUEST** support for this important bipartisan legislation from key members of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464

• **Representative Mac Thornberry** (R-TX), Chair, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

• **Adam Smith** (D-WA), Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee, 2216 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4151

**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has refused to provide details about what Trump discussed with Putin during their Helsinki meeting**. The Secretary of State took exception to questions by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about Trump's private one-on-one with Putin, but claimed he is “very confident that I received a comprehensive debriefing from President Trump.”

**EXPLAIN** to Pompeo that the American people are fed up with this “trust us” attitude the administration is using and **DEMAND** that he share this information with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who have every right to know what Trump may be committing us to

• **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000

**JUDICIARY and JUSTICE**

There’s good reason for Senators considering Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh to ask for the records from his time in the White House. There is also, as *Americans United for Separation of Church and State* points out, precedent for such a release of records: “President Barrack Obama’s nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court is illustrative. Now-Justice Kagan had worked in the Bill Clinton White House and upon her nomination, Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.), then-chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and then-Ranking Member Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) jointly sent a letter requesting records from her tenure in the White House Counsel’s Office and the Domestic Policy Council. Critically, more than 170,000 pages of materials were produced, including virtually every email sent and received by Kagan while she was at the White House. Even more important is that President Obama did not assert executive privilege over a single document, that the few records that President Clinton objected to public release were allowed to be shared with the committee confidentially and that less than one percent of the pages of records were withheld because of personal privacy.” In response to the request for these materials, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is threatening to push the vote on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh until closer to the November elections, as punishment for Democrats asking for the release of documents from when Kavanaugh served in the Bush administration. *Politico* explains: “Delaying the vote past September would serve a dual purpose for McConnell, keeping vulnerable red-state Democrats off the campaign trail while potentially forcing anti-Kavanaugh liberals to swallow a demoralizing defeat just ahead of the midterms. Senators said McConnell believes the Democratic base will be ‘deflated’ if they raise hopes of defeating Kavanaugh only to lose just days before the election.”

**TELL** our Senators that McConnell's fear over full transparency should be an even greater motivator to demand to see Brett Kavanaugh's paper trail and that they should **INSIST** that the tradition of transparency for Supreme Court nominees be maintained

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

*Chop Wood, Carry Water* is encouraging us to call on our Congresspeople to support the fight against monetary bail that unfairly leaves poor Americans in prison while awaiting trial. In the Senate, Bernie Sanders has just introduced a “No Money Bail Act,” as yet unnumbered; Ted Lieu has already introduced a House “No Money Bail Act” (H.R.1437) that would end the travesty of cash bail and aim to keep people from being locked up before trial solely because they cannot afford their bail

**REQUEST** that our Congresspeople to support ‘No Money Bail” legislation

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

Another suggested message from from *Chop Wood, Carry Water*: “I'd like the Senator to vote NO on the nomination of Ryan T. Holte for a judgeship to the Federal Court of Claims. Holte is 34 years old, with less than 3 years of litigation experience. He has never tried a case. He is also connected to far right-wing groups, and I find his extreme ideology to be very troubling in a judge. Second, I want the Senator to vote *no* on the nomination of Howard Nielson for a judgeship to federal district court. I am deeply concerned by Nielson’s past actions against the Affordable Care Act, women’s reproductive rights, common-sense gun safety, and LGBTQ marriage equality…. [Finally,] I want the Senator to oppose Britt Grant for a lifetime judgeship on the federal appeals court. Grant has a troubling record of far-right wing views. She also lacks enough courtroom experience under ABA guidelines, and she is unqualified to be a federal judge.”

**SHARE** these concerns about Holte, Nielson, and Grany with our Senators

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**PRESS FREEDOMS and RELATED**

There have been serious concerns that new tariffs on newsprint from Canada could raise prices enough to drive many small newspapers out of business. There is, however, a move afoot in Congress to prevent this from happening. The “PRINT Act,” S.2835 in the Senate and H.R.6031 in the House would require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the U.S. and would not allow any newsprint tariffs to be put into place until this report had been delivered to the President and the President has then certified to the Secretary and the Chair of the U.S. International Trade Commission that such a tariff is in the best interests of the U.S.

**URGE** our Congresspeople to keep an eye out for this legislation and **CALL** on them to protect small and local newspapers

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

From *Rogan’s List*: “Throughout May and June two of the nation’s leading newspapers, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, quoted Republicans at more than twice the rate of Democrats in their political news coverage. In an analysis of the papers’ news and political coverage during May and June, *Media Matters* found that the Times quoted 1,466 Republicans and 611 Democrats, a ratio of approximately 2.4 Republicans for every Democrat. The Post quoted 1,403 Republicans and 615 Democrats, for a ratio of approximately 2.3 Republicans for every Democrat.

**COMPLAIN** to the editors of these papers and **ASK** why the Republicans are getting more press than the Democrats

• **Dean Baquet**, Executive Editor, *New York Times*, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018, (800) 698-4637

• **Marc Lacey**, National Editor, *New York Times*, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018, (800) 698-4637

• **Nick Fox**, Editor, *New York Times*, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018, (800) 698-4637

• **Martin Baron**, Executive Editor, *Washington Post*, 1301 K St. NW, Washington DC 20071, (202) 334-7582 (ombudsman)

• **Cameron Barr**, Managing Editor, *Washington Post*, 1301 K St. NW, Washington DC 20071, (202) 334-7582 (ombudsman)

• **Steven Ginsberg**, National Editor, *Washington Post*, 1301 K St. NW, Washington DC 20071, (202) 334-7582 (ombudsman)

From *Rogan’s List*: “It’s a policy and a strategy of the Trump administration to shore up its power by undermining, belittling, and discrediting the press. Remarkably, at [a recent] White House press briefing, journalist Jordan Fabian of The Hill wouldn’t let White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders get away with it. When Sanders pivoted to him in an attempt to cut off his colleague Hallie Jackson of NBC News as she posed a tough question, Fabian yielded his time, forcing Sanders to respond to Jackson.”

**THANK** Fabian for being a mensch

• **John Fabian**, c/o White House Correspondents’ Association, 600 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 800, Washington DC 20037, (202) 226-7453

**SUGGEST** to the White House Correspondents’ Association that we want its members to always display this kind of solidarity as a strategy for holding this administration accountable to the American people.

• **White House Correspondents’ Association**, 600 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 800, Washington DC 20037, (202) 226-7453

Via *Rogan’s List*: For some good news, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman, Ajit Pai, rejected the proposed merger of Sinclair and Tribune and is referring the matter for an administrative hearing, a long process that will usually kill a deal. If the deal had gone through, Sinclair, an ultra-conservative media outlet that already has 38% of the market share and has come under criticism for forcing its anchors on all stations to air a company-written “news segment” on “fake news,” would have expanded to 72% of U.S. households. Sinclair is now trying to save the deal by changing its divestment strategies in order to comply with the rule that it not control too much of the market. Rather than selling off some of their stations to closely aligned media companies, they now would put these stations in trust to be operated by an independent trustee. However, it’s still not clear how aligned this “independent” trustee would be with Sinclair’s ultra-conservative mission and their controversial policies of requiring anchors to read pre-fabricated right-wing op-eds.

**TELL** Chairman Pai, the FCC, and our Congresspeople that we are still deeply concerned with this merger and that having Sinclair or stations that are still Sinclair-affiliated with a common ideology, even if their operational structure is separate, controlling two-thirds of television media is in clear violation of FCC standards

• **Ajit Pai**, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Mignon Clyburn**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Michael O’Reilly**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Brendan Carr**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Jessica Rosenworcel**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St. SW, Washington DC 20554, 888-CALL-FCC

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**RUSSIA, OBSTRUCTION, and MEULLER**

Members of the Republican “Freedom Caucus” have filed articles of impeachment against U.S. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. According to *BBC North America*, “[t]wo of the most conservative members of the House of Representatives have their press release and flurry of media coverage for introducing articles of impeachment against Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. That's probably all they will get. The motion, as introduced, is unlikely to see any kind of a vote. House Speaker Paul Ryan, along with many other Republicans, don't want it. They know a real push for impeachment would tear their party asunder. Even if it does get a vote, and even if Mr. Rosenstein is impeached, two-thirds of the Senate would have to support removing him after a trial in the chamber. The chances of that—which would require a significant number of Democrats in favour—are less than zero.” We can hope this analysis is correct, but meanwhile we can let Rosenstein know that we support the Mueller investigation and his refusal to end it.

**SUPPORT** for the Deputy Attorney General

• Rod Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001, (202) 353-1555

Republican and Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist wrote an op-ed appearing in the *Washington Post* in which he called for support for the Mueller investigation from Congressional Republicans, “staying silent is no longer an option. Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III is under assault, and that is wrong. No matter who is in the White House, we Republicans must stand up for the sanctity of our democracy and the rule of law. Certainly, my former colleagues face difficult pressures. They go to work in a Washington that is divided.… But we can’t look the other way as, tweet by tweet, with each new assault on the Justice Department’s independence, the bedrock principles of our party crumble. I’m a Republican because I stand for small government and also, as a physician, for the dignity of every life. But I am also a Republican because I believe in the rule of law. Republicans must fight for that principle today — even if it means pushing back against a Republican administration. As a party, we can’t let the president or his allies erode the independence of the Justice Department or public trust in the vital work of law enforcement. That would be true even if the stakes were much lower, but it is overwhelmingly so when it comes to investigating foreign interference in our elections. Congress must ensure that Mueller is able to do his job without interference or intimidation”

**THANKS** to Senator Frist for his defense of our Democracy and his willingness to speak out when so few Republican leaders are willing to do so

• **Senator Bill Frist**, c/o the Harry Walker Agency Speakers Bureau, 355 Lexington Ave. 21st Floor, New York, NY 10024, (646) 227-4900

Donald Trump has threatened to revoke the security clearances of six former U.S. officials who have been critical of his meeting with Vladimir Putin and the lack of transparency about what transpired during that meeting. These includes former CIA Director John Brennan including former FBI Director James Comey; former Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe; former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; former National Security Adviser Susan Rice and former CIA Director Michael Hayden (who also worked under President George W. Bush). *Fox News* cites White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders explaining that Trump is “exploring mechanisms” to remove the security clearances “because [the former officials] politicized and in some cases actually monetized their public service and their security clearances in making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia.”

CHASTIZE Trump and his Spokesperson for threatening to pull security clearances on the basis of disagreement with Presidential policy and REMIND them that those issued security clearances receive them in part because they have proven they will place the nation’s security ahead of partisan politics, something too many people in the Trump administration fail to do

• **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

• Sarah Huckabee Sanders, White House Press Secretary, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

Currently, there are all sorts of resolutions in Congress regarding Trump’s recent meeting with Vladimir Putin, most of them in the House, with one in the Senate.

-H.Res.1016 concurs with the intelligence community’s determination that of Russian interfered in the 2016 election and is currently before the House Intelligence Committee.

-H.Res.1015 commends the Department of Justice both for investigating Russian election interference and for its insistence that Russia be held accountable for its actions. This resolution is currently with six House committees: Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, and Ways and Means.

-H.Res.1008 affirms the U.S. relationship with NATO and criticizes Trump for not confronting Putin about election interference; it is currently before the House Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

-H.Res.1014 affirms the intelligence community’s determination that Russians interfered in U.S. elections and condemns Trump’s inviting Putin to visit the White House. It is currently before the House Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Committees.

-H.Res.1017 calls for all documents pertaining to Trump’s meeting with Putin to be released to Congress, and is before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

-H.Res.1021, asserts that all agreements reached between Trump/Putin should require congressional approval; it is with the House Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Committees.

-S.Res.588 asserts the need for transparency regarding any meetings between Trump and Putin. It is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the House Foreign Affairs Committee **INCLUDING** support for H.Res.1015, H.Res.1008, H.Res.1014, H.Res.1017, and H.Res.1021

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the House Judiciary Committee **INCLUDING** support for H.Res.1015 and H.Res.1008

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3951

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the House Intelligence Committee **INCLUDING** support for H.Res.1016, H.Res.1015, H.Res.1014, H.Res.1021

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.SD. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-4121

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.SD. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-4176

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee **INCLUDING** support for H.Res.1015

• **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5074

• **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5074

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the House Financial Services Committee **INCLUDING** support for H.Res.1015

• **Representative Jeb Hensarling** (R-TX), Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2228 Rayburn House office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3484

• **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee, 2221 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2201

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the House Ways and Means Committee **INCLUDING** support for H.Res.1015

• **Representative Kevin Brady**, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-3625

• Representative Richard Neal (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-3625

**INSIST** on decisive action regarding Russian election interference and Trump’s relations with Putin from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee **INCLUDING** support for S.Res.588

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

• **Senator Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-6225, (202) 224-4651

From *Rogan’s List*: “The recent developments between the current administration and Russian head of state, Vladimir Putin are leading Democrats to press again for the President’s tax returns. However, the members of Congress with the authority to request these returns, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) are refusing to call for these documents.”

**TELL** these men that viewing Trump’s tax returns are essential in assessing whether or not the president is being unduly influenced by Russia due to financial obligations and **EXPLAIN** that stonewalling their Congressional responsibilities in this process at this point is to be complicit in a cover-up

• **Senator Orrin Hatch** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Finance Committee, 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4515

• **Representative Kevin Brady**, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee,1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 205615, (202) 225-362

The *Wall Street Journal* reports: “Hackers working for Russia claimed ‘hundreds of victims’ last year in a giant and long-running campaign that put them inside the control rooms of U.S. electric utilities where they could have caused blackouts, federal officials said. They said the campaign likely is continuing. The Russian hackers, who worked for a shadowy state-sponsored group previously identified as Dragonfly or Energetic Bear, broke into supposedly secure, ‘air-gapped’ or isolated networks owned by utilities with relative ease by first penetrating the networks of key vendors who had trusted relationships with the power companies, said officials at the Department of Homeland Security. It also said some companies still may not know they have been compromised, because the attacks used credentials of actual employees to get inside utility networks, potentially making the intrusions more difficult to detect. Experts have been warning about the Russian threat for some time. ‘They’ve been intruding into our networks and are positioning themselves for a limited or widespread attack,’ said Michael Carpenter, former deputy assistant secretary of defense, who now is a senior director at the Penn Biden Center at the University of Pennsylvania. ‘They are waging a covert war on the West.’”

ASK administration and Congressional Homeland Security figures how they are responding to this threat

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4751

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515
• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-8417

Senators Marco Rubio and Lindsey Graham want a vote on a bill, S.2785, called “DETER,” that would impose new sanctions if U.S. intelligence officials determine Russia meddled in U.S. elections. The DETER Act would make sanctions more automatic and aim to punish Russia’s finance, energy, defense and other sectors.

**TELL** our Senators that we want the DETER Act brought to the Senate floor for a vote and that we support it

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Both the role of Russian interference in the 2016 election and the determination of many Republican lawmakers to deny the fact of this interference have been on full display in Washington (and in Europe, and in Russia, and anywhere else Trump visits). The CIA has now revealed that President-elect Trump received classified information two weeks before his inauguration documenting Putin’s role in the election-related cyber-attacks on the U.S. Since then, the Senate Intelligence Committee has also released a report in support of the U.S. intelligence community’s conclusion that Russia interfered in our elections. This interference took multiple forms, including online campaigns intended to sow discord among voters, and attacks against not only the major political parties, but also of think tanks and lobbying groups. Trump, nonetheless, has continued to deny any possible Russian role in the election, most recently during a joint press conference with Vladimir Putin. Trump later backtracked and said he misspoke when he denied Russia would interfere in U.S. elections, but he later backtracked from his backtracking, and his preference for reassurances from Putin over the research of his own security agencies remains clear. When the Senate considered a non-binding, bipartisan resolution supporting the intelligence community’s assessment of Russian interference. Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (who site on the Senate Intelligence Committee) blocked the effort to pass this resolution by unanimous consent, calling it “purely a symbolic act.”

**TELL** Trump he should be giving his own intelligence agencies more credence than Putin and that his actions at this point are bordering on treason

• **Donald Trump**, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

**EXPLAIN** to the Senate Majority Whip that acknowledging an attack on U.S. elections is much more than a “symbolic act”—it is an essential step in recognizing this interference and preventing it in the future

• **Senator John Cornyn** (R-TX) 517 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2934

**THANK** Republican Senate Intelligence Committee members for their willingness to leave party politics behind and to acknowledge a real threat to our democracy and **ENCOURAGE** them to continue to draw attention to Russian interference in our elections

• **Senator Richard Burr** (R-NC), Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Mark Warner** (R-VA), Vice-Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator James Risch** (R-ID), Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Susan Collins** (D-ME), Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO), Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator James Lankford** (R-OK), Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

• **Senator Tom Cotton** (R-AR), Member, Senate Intelligence Committee, 211 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1700

In his recent meeting with Putin in Helsinki, Trump and the Russian leader apparently came to “agreements,” but neither press nor officials from the U.S. were present at that meeting, and no one in Trump’s administration appears to have been informed yet what exactly those agreements were. In other words, Trump is more comfortable placing confidence in Putin than in his own staff. Russia’s Defense Ministry, on the other hand, has announced its readiness to put these agreements into motion, suggesting that they have some idea of what these agreements are. One possible work-around for members of the government trying to understand what our country has been committed to would be to subpoena the translator who was present at the Trump-Putin meeting. In fact, House Democratic leader Adam Schiff proposed exactly this in a meeting of the House Intelligence Committee, on which he sits, but this move was blocked by the committee chair, Devin Nunes, who ruled Schiff’s move was out of order.

**ASK** the Secretary of State how it feels to be less informed about America’s international agreements than the Russian Defense Ministry

• **Michael R. Pompeo**, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, (202) 647-4000

**INSIST** to the House Intelligence chair that we cannot afford to be ignorant of the agreements Trump has made with Putin, particularly given the Russian leader’s history of interference in U.S. elections

• **Representative Devin Nunes** (R-CA), Chair, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-4121

**THANK** Schiff for offering this possible work-around to Trump’s stonewalling and **ENCOURAGE** him to keep pursuing it

• **Representative Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Intelligence Committee, House Intelligence Committee, Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington DC 20515-6415, (202) 225-7690

**URGE** our Congresspeople to insist on being informed of the details of any agreement Trump is brokering with Russia

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**SCIENCE**

**Trump's nominee to be the No. 2 official at NASA, James Morhard, is a long-time Senate aide with no experience in space operations or technology.** Morhard, who currently serves as the Senate's deputy sergeant at arms**.** Top NASA administrator Jim Bridenstein had requested the nominationDr. Janet Kavandi, an astronaut and respected leader of one of the space agency’s research centers. Bridenstein—who has shown himself willing to be educated about scientific issues—has a political background. If Morhard is confirmed that will mean neither of the top two people at NASA will have any scientific background. His nomination is currently before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Technology Committee

**TELL** key committee members that we cannot afford to fill another NASA leadership post with a non-scientist

• **Senator John Thune** (R-SD), Chair, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, 512 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-1251

• **Senator Bill Nelson** (D-FL), Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, 512 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-0411

*ProPublica* and the *Santa Fe New Mexican* report: The Trump administration has quietly taken steps that may inhibit independent oversight of its most high-risk nuclear facilities, including some buildings at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a Department of Energy [DOE] document shows. An order published on the department’s website in mid-May outlines new limits on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board—including preventing the board from accessing sensitive information, imposing additional legal hurdles on board staff, and mandating that Energy Department officials speak ‘with one voice’ when communicating with the board.

The board has, by statute, operated independently and has been provided largely unfettered access to the nation’s nuclear weapons complexes in order to assess accidents or safety concerns that could pose a grave risk to workers and the public. For many years, the board asked the Department of Energy to provide annual reviews of how well facilities handled nuclear materials vulnerable to a runaway chain reaction—and required federal officials to brief the board on the findings. It also has urged the energy secretary not to restart certain nuclear operations at various sites until work could be done safely. The Energy Department’s order is the latest effort to limit transparency and weaken the board’s ability to conduct oversight, experts and critics say. And it represents another step by the Trump administration to stall or halt the work done by advisory boards and committees across the federal government.”

**TELL** the DOE to respect the purpose and procedures of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and to revoke these new rules

• **Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy**, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

• **Lisa E. Gordon-Haggerty**, Undersecretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-5000

**EXPLAIN** to key Congressional Committee members that you object to these changes that put public safety at risk

• **Senator John Barrasso** (R-KY), Chair, Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

• **Senator Thomas R. Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4971

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• **Representative Joe Barton** (R-TX), Vice-Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2927

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