

Meeting with Rep Kilmer's Staff

August 6th 2019, we met at the Norm Dicks Building in Bremerton 4-5 pm
Rep Kilmer sends out newsletters every two weeks. [The latest](#)

Staff Members

We met with Katy Crabtree (katycrabtree@mail.house.gov) and Clayton Swope (202 225 5916), a DC staff member working on policy in DC.

Rep Kilmer has three staff members in DC who work on policy.

Clayton was a mechanical engineer. He works on policy for Rep Kilmer on foreign policy, defense, taxes, trade and similar issues.

Campaign Financing

In the [phone call with us in March](#), Rep Kilmer said that he didn't know who contributed to his campaign and therefore he couldn't sign the No Fossil Fuel Pledge. I thought it was a shame that he didn't know, and so I have taken printouts of contributors to his campaign to the last two meetings. Details of his campaign financing: OpenSecrets.org. If we want to know about Rep Kilmer's campaign finances, we are to contact Liz Hall at liz@derekkilmer.com.

HR 763: A Huge Part of the Green New Deal

He has cosponsored [HR 763: The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019](#). We thanked him a lot for that. ☺

Town Halls

Rep Kilmer has town halls coming up!

Westport - Monday, August 26, 2019 at 5:30pm

Westport Maritime Museum, [2201 Westhaven Dr, Westport, WA 98595](#)

Kingston - Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 6:00pm

Village Green Community Center, [26159 Dulay Rd NE, Kingston, WA 98346](#)

Gig Harbor - Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 5:30pm

Location TBD. See <https://kilmer.house.gov/>

Forks - Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 5:30pm

Rainforest Arts Center, 35 N Forks Ave, Forks, WA 98331

The New Democratic Coalition

Rep Kilmer is the chair of the [New Democratic Coalition](#).

Criticism - In the US:

[One person dies every 12 minutes](#) due to lack of healthcare.

[There are too many people with too little savings.](#)

The NDC is all about making money for the rich. We need money to come to the 95%.

Bills / Action

Rep Kilmer voted for the [Raise the Wage Act](#), to bring the minimum wage to \$15 / hr
800, 000 jobs in WA depend on trade, and people won't pay \$250 for a shirt made in America, so we get them made elsewhere with worse labor laws. It's a balance, and we need to get people who make shirts better treatment.

Corn Subsidies

In the Great Depression, families needed subsidies to keep their farms. The subsidies have continued. The US subsidies for corn farmers have caused damage to Central America by lowering the global prices of corn. [And enriched millionaires – not family farms.](#) [More information.](#)



Top 10 U.S. farm subsidy recipients from 2008 through 2017 benefiting from 60 federal farm programs administered by the USDA. These government programs include marketing assistance, agricultural risk, price loss coverage, livestock forage, conservation, crop disaster and many more. [OPENTHEBOOKS.COM](https://openthebooks.com)

ISDS and NAFTA 2.0

Investor-State Dispute Settlement clauses give power to corporations to sue governments for legislating to protect workers or the environment. They are common in trade agreements, and are very damaging.

[More](#)

USMCA, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is awaiting Congressional approval. It is considered NAFTA 2.0. It is important that it does not include ISDS. Clayton said that thankfully Trump does not like ISDS because it undermines our sovereignty. [More](#)

We Consume Too Much

“With less than 5 percent of world population, the U.S. uses one-third of the world’s paper, a quarter of the world’s oil, 23 percent of the coal, 27 percent of the aluminum, and 19 percent of the copper,” he reports. “Our per capita use of energy, metals, minerals, forest products, fish, grains, meat, and even fresh water dwarfs that of people living in the developing world.” [more](#)

Gun Control

In 2013, Rep Kilmer [got a B](#) from the NRA.

As of 2016, [he has an F](#).

He is a cosponsor of [HR8](#), the comprehensive gun control bill.

His [voting record](#) on guns. There are three bills that McConnell (Moscow Mitch) won’t bring to the Senate floor, including [HR 4909](#), which has sweeping legislation to protect students in school and help schools and police find troubled youth. It passed the House 407 – 10.

If you care about gun safety measures, donate to get rid of McConnell [here](#).

He is proud to be the [grim reaper of socialism](#). He blocks all legislation – even bipartisan – and is [packing the courts](#).

Impeachment

Rep Kilmer came out [in support of impeachment](#) inquiries last week. We would like him to speak on the House floor about it. To see what he says on the House floor, see him on [C-Span](#). His last speech on the floor at 59.37 concerned [Austin Tice, a journalist who disappeared in the Middle East. He is from Tacoma. It also concerned a bipartisan bill to fully fund parks](#). The Tices [are hopeful](#) that their son is still alive. He was detained at a Beirut checkpoint in 2013.

Immigrant Detention

Rep Kilmer is going to the southern border this month. His staff said he went last year. I couldn’t find a record of it. We are furious that he voted for the [Senate immigration bill](#). The House version was so much more benign. The staff said that he voted to enable people in detention to get care.

- Does it cost \$750 a day to house children?

“at an influx facility like Homestead, the cost is ... around \$750 per day. It is covered by American taxpayers.” [Reuters](#) This is for children that show up unexpected and need to be cared for. The number is going up, so they are staying longer now.

Brain Differences between Liberal and Conservatives

There are said to be [differences in their brains](#) - Conservatives are governed by fear.

Green New Deal

Carbon Dioxide levels hit [413 parts per million](#) recently. That is the highest level in 54 million years. The last time this happened Greenland had no ice and there was a 20 ft sea level rise. There will be a 5ft sea level rise by 2100.

2020

We expect higher voter turnout in 2020. [Which isn't hard.](#)

“According to the United States Election Project (<http://www.electproject.org/2016g>), an average of 59.7 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots. (The turnout number is lower when you just look at voting-age Americans, but not all Americans over 18 can vote, for various reasons.) Compare that to President Barack Obama’s re-election in 2012, when 58.6 percent of eligible voters cast ballots—or 2000’s presidential election, which saw just 54.2 percent turn out to the polls—and the 2016 results aren’t too shabby.”

We Overwhelmingly Want Progressive Policies – Not Centrist

There are numerous polls that show that voters [want Progressive policies](#).

How Budgets Are Set

There are two types of committees: ones that set legislation and those that set appropriations levels for them. It takes both to enact legislation.

There is also a vote in Congress to set the overall budget for the year in a series of bills, which is a framework. That bill is mandatory funding and discretionary spending. The mandatory funding includes social security and Medicaid, etc. and continues as it. The discretionary fund includes defense, infrastructure, etc. and is what Congress debates.

They vote on the overall budget between March and June. There are 12 separate bills to cover it. In July, the Senate and House debate and reconcile their bills.

That is the ideal sequence of events.

Trump Took \$ For the Wall

Trump’s packed court [allowed him to take billions of dollars](#) from the military for his wall.

There is a bipartisan law preventing him from doing that again in 2020. It is a flagrant power grab from Congress’ ability to control the budget. The military budget for 2020 is [\\$738bn, a 3% rise](#). The Democrats got money for programs they wanted funded. That was the deal. [National Guard units in WA](#) are part of the military spending. They protect elections.

Budgets in General

Rep Kilmer voted against the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and would vote for a bill that would stop folks in Congress being paid if there is ever a government shutdown. He would also vote for everyone to have the same healthcare as Congress.

He is the chair of the [Committee on the modernization of Congress](#). They have many suggestions to fix the antiquated system.

Money from subsidizing oil companies should instead go into healthcare.

