

Notes from Meeting with Katy, Rep. Kilmer's staffer October 29th 2019

By Holly Brewer, mistakes mine. Meeting with Katy Crabtree, Katy.Crabtree@mail.house.gov

We meet with Rep. Kilmer's staff once a month, generally the last Tuesday. More at www.SADfor.us

New Dems Ask for Clean Energy

There was an announcement by the New Dems Coalition on Thursday, joining with more than 160 House members calling for clean energy tax policies. <https://newdemocratcoalition.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/more-than-160-members-urge-house-democratic-leadership-to-prioritize-clean-energy-tax-policies> Rep. Kilmer is the chairman of the coalition.

Clarification of Impeachment Process

Tuesday October 29th, Rep. McGovern mapped out the impeachment process:

<https://rules.house.gov/bill/116/h-res-PIH-inquiry>.

Its key provisions (without the legalese):

https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/InquiryResolutionFactSheet_0.pdf

(It is H. Res 660. The text: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-116hres660ih/pdf/BILLS-116hres660ih.pdf>. It was then marked up in the rules committee and then they voted to take it to the house floor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVSJcHdgKwE>). It got through. 2 Dems voted against it.

The change in the process is to protect Adam Schiff and be clear for the public. The impeachment investigations were already going on perfectly legally and according to the Constitution's processes. The administration already lost a lawsuit to keep the unredacted Mueller report from Congress:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/us-judge-orders-mueller-grand-jury-materials-released-to-house-judiciary-committee-in-impeachment-inquiry/2019/10/25/18e60278-f75d-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96_story.html

GND

Climate principles in new Dems that align with the Green New Deal:

Net zero carbon emissions by 2050

Clean energy deployment

Help for the minorities affected

Infrastructure and resilience

Agriculture

Climate principles in new Dems that are different from the Green New Deal:

The way to get there legislatively

Healthcare for all. They have their own solution for that

Building upgrades - not to upgrade all old buildings because that may not help anyway

Trade - they have a different policy, promoting American jobs first

Job creation - no job guarantee, they have a different policy - and labor standards policy

Shelley Jaye's updated list of New Democrat Coalition Releases Priorities for U.S. Climate Policy:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QW193snEv3sn1FS_RSjAIPXYNdTifvVl6vgrJc9IFS/edit

Shelley is going to Citizens climate lobby in two weeks in DC. She will meet with Senators Murray and Cantwell and Rep. Kilmer's staffers as part of a huge group. Go, Green New Deal!
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/november-lobby-day-2019/>

Climate Town Hall

We want a climate town hall. It's been a busy year. He didn't mention climate much in recent town halls. He's busy in many committees for the rest of 2019 and they don't have the schedule for 2020 yet. There may be an upcoming newsletter on it, and he may have a town hall. They have to look at scheduling.

Military

We need a reduced military. The money for our oversized military should be going elsewhere. We all recognize this, especially not building any more nukes. There is also some investment that is needed in the military. For instance, there was a lawsuit against the sewer leaks in the navy base in Bremerton. <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/06/12/suquamish-tribe-to-sue-navy-over-sewage-spills/> Also, Sen. Murray complained that money was taken from Bangor for Trump's wall. <https://komonews.com/news/local/senator-murray-calls-out-trump-for-taking-military-funds-to-pay-for-border-wall>

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

Rep. Kilmer is the chair. <https://modernizecongress.house.gov/about/chair>
The recent LWV forum with Rep. Kilmer about his work in the Modernizing Congress Committee:
<https://bkat.viebit.com/player.php?hash=iX5jHtsq8KuY>
- they call it the 'fix it' committee.

One thing that they have done is to change that in committees they used to divide up money for staff per member. Now they share staff who are subject matter experts – on health care, for instance.

They have got 49 resolutions done – in an extremely bipartisan way, voting unanimously oftentimes.

They have talked about how to retain staff. The average staff tenure is 3 years, which is bad because it is the lobbyists and politicians who stay.

They also work on technological ways to up their game, and many other issues.

The Committee is working on making [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) clearer. And simplify the language and its structure. There's a lot of crossing over and dead bills.

Rep. Kilmer is also in the **bipartisan working group**. They have breakfast once a week. It helps them to see what they are each working on, and to see each other's priorities. They also visit each other's districts. <https://www.knkn.org/post/us-rep-derek-kilmer-discusses-bipartisanship-civility-congress-and-impeachment>

New Cruise Terminal

We asked Rep. Kilmer to push back against the proposed new cruise ship terminal in Seattle. If we are going to get serious about combatting global warming, we need to stop encouraging huge polluters like cruise ships. <https://patch.com/washington/seattle/seattle-port-planning-200m-cruise-terminal-near-pioneer-square>

About the pollution: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesellsmoor/2019/04/26/cruise-ship-pollution-is-causing-serious-health-and-environmental-problems/#ebe41137db35>

ICE Raids in Port Orchard

In September, there were ICE raids in Kitsap. They arrested 60 people.

<https://q13fox.com/2019/09/30/exclusive-inside-controversial-ice-arrests-in-kitsap-county/>

[KIAC](#) and [KAIRE](#) met with Katy recently. Rep. Kilmer's office will stop ICE asking about people's health info and about students at schools. This was against HIPAA regulations, therefore, it was an isolated incident. Folks in Rep. Kilmer's office have also met with ICE.

Rep. Kilmer has been to Tacoma detention center:

June 25 2018: <https://q13fox.com/2018/06/25/rep-kilmer-ice-wouldnt-grant-me-access-due-to-security-chicken-pox-concerns/>. He was refused entry (purportedly because of chicken pox concerns).

June 29 2018, he got in. His comments on being in the detention center:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SORSIUHdwW0>

He will go again.

The Seattle Six

The Seattle 6 were arraigned on October 24 and trial was set for January 30, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 12B (700 Stewart Street). It would be great to have supporters there.

The Seattle Six had their first appearance at the US Federal District Court in Seattle on Oct. 24. The six protesters were arrested August 6 at Sen. Maria Cantwell's Seattle office when they refused to leave her office until she responded to the request made 35 days earlier that she visit the detention camps and hold a town hall forum on the abusive conditions there. More info here:

<https://cad2bfe0b1cd1dc8cef0a1f59de532a.blogspot.com/2019/10/thursday-october-24th-830-am-cantwell.html>

The Trial of the Seattle Six FB event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1385143611643766/?ti=icl>

Do State Legislators Work Together?

Senators don't work closely with Representatives - but they do brush shoulders at events. Reps work together more.

Rep. Denny Heck and Rep. Kilmer share an apartment in DC and fly together to DC generally.

Rep. Larsen works with Rep. Kilmer on issues concerning Puget Sound.

As to the senators, Senators Murray and Cantwell specialize in their particular areas: Murray on health care and veteran's affairs and Cantwell on the environment and security, for instance. Now that the Senate is a Republican majority and they can't get Dem bills through senators work on messaging and writing bills that won't pass so that they are ready when they can.

Threats to our Democracy

Senators and House Representatives can have riders – damaging parts of legislation to include in good legislation - in Federal bills - but not in state bills, thankfully.

We need to stop McConnell and the president being able to stop legislation.

The left need to have our version of an American Legislative Education Council. They write copycat legislation and share it to different states to change legislation state by state rather than having it Federally – because it is too right wing to pass Congress. <https://www.alec.org/>

Fire trucks are going to help those in California. <https://www.kuow.org/stories/seattle-everett-firefighters-drive-down-to-assist-california> Including Bainbridge Island. <https://www.bainbridgereview.com/news/kitsap-firefighters-head-to-southern-california-to-fight-raging-wildfires/>

Please call, fax and email Rep. Kilmer's office about things that matter to you. Especially, please tell them that you appreciate it when he does things that you like. That's easy to forget. Especially that he voted to move impeachment forward on Hallowe'en 2019. Interesting times!

The Storming of the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility

10/23/19: Over 30 Republicans went into a SCIF in Congress to protest the closed impeachment hearings – which already follow protocol so that witnesses cannot hear each other's testimony. We want to know if House Dems wrote a letter disparaging the storming into the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility. I could not find one.

We want our Representative to write a strongly-worded letter about this. This sets a dangerous precedent – and sets an example to Republican citizens that lawfulness is the new norm. <https://www.wired.com/story/republicans-storm-scif-national-security-nightmare/>

Our next meeting will be November the 19th, 3-4 pm in Bremerton. More info, and please check back closer to the time (it occasionally changes) at www.SADfor.us.