

## Notes from Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 Meeting in Bremerton

-with Katy Crabtree, Rep. Kilmer's Staffer

Notes by [holly@hollybrewer.com](mailto:holly@hollybrewer.com), mistakes mine. Past notes and more at [www.SADfor.us](http://www.SADfor.us)

Join us most last Tuesdays each month. Next meeting is January 28, 3-4 pm.



Our cute selfie! Left to right: Shelley Jaye, Holly Brewer, Katy Crabtree, Kathy Wallace

### The Impeachment

45 was impeached on Wednesday night, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The two articles of impeachment. [NYT](#)

### The Constitution on Impeachment. [USConstitution.net](http://USConstitution.net)

Article I Section 2 & 3:

"The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

...

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.”

#### Article II Section 4:

“The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

### **Pelosi is Keeping the Articles of Impeachment in the House**

Speaker Pelosi is holding onto the articles of impeachment and not sending them to the Senate for the trial until the process is mapped out and satisfactory. McConnell has said that he wants no witnesses, and to just rush it through and have it voted down. He says he is not an “impartial juror” [Axios](#) “At her weekly news conference, she reiterated that the articles would be sent and the impeachment managers named once it’s clear what sort of process the Senate would take up.” [WaPo](#)

### **Spending Bills Have Passed Congress**

Trump is likely to sign them. They had to be done by December 20<sup>th</sup> or there would be a government shutdown.

“The bills also include major policy changes sought by both parties, including raising the federal minimum age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21 and a 3.1% pay increase for the troops.

Democrats are celebrating an equal pay increase for federal workers, \$425 million for election security spending and full funding for the upcoming 2020 census. The bill also includes \$25 million for gun violence research, the first time in 20 years Congress has approved any such spending.” [NPR](#)  
The Federal government is one of the largest employers here, so this was a big win for Rep. Kilmer.

Funding for tax credits for biodiesel and broadband in rural areas is in the year end spending bill. [AGWeek](#)

### **The Extension of the Patriot Act**

The extension of the Patriot Act, which was enacted by Bush “normalizing the U.S. government’s mass surveillance powers” was extended in the CR bill - it was widely championed on both side of the aisle. [dissidentVoice.org](#)

### **The National Defense Authorization Act**

Rep. Kilmer is on the House Committee on Appropriations in the Subcommittee on Defense.

Their summary of the bill as it left their committee. [ArmedServices.House.gov](#)

The NDAA passed the House. It is \$738bn. [HR 1790](#)

Rep. Kilmer is pleased that it includes:

Attention to and funding for military installations making themselves long term resilient to the effects of climate change. [Climateandsecurity.org](#). Most military bases are on the coast – including those in our district, and they are painfully aware of rising sea levels.

Monitoring of growler noise, which affects mainly northern Kitsap and Whidbey Island

[IslandSounder.com](#) It is particularly important to preserve the serenity of the Olympic forest, especially [the one square inch](#).

It also includes:

12 weeks of paid parental leave for the first time

Funding for a Space Force

3.1% pay raise for military folks

Gold Star survivors' benefits. [CNN](#)

There is said to be funding for the military fighting climate change and cybersecurity, but I couldn't find a reference to it. Although I did find reference to funding to move sites if they are threatened by rising sea levels. There is also said to be money for tribal mitigation with the military. It takes a long time because of treaty rights. It usually involves money. There are 11 tribes in this district. They are working on giving them other tools to negotiate.

### **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement**

Is the new version of NAFTA. It passed the House this week. The USMCA ideally stops the system that NAFTA put in place (ISDS) whereby multinational or national corporations can go to a small tribunal and have national laws overturned to enable them to go against labor and environmental laws to make more profits, amongst other things that don't work for folks in the USA. Pelosi held it up for 14 months to get concessions. [USAToday](#).

Sierra Club hate it – it doesn't mention environmental protections. [SierraClub.org](#)

Rep. Kilmer is excited about two things: the new labor regulations (below) and the agreement on prescription drugs. "the removal of a certain rule involving pharmaceuticals. The original USMCA extended the period that certain drugs (known as "biologics") can be protected from generic competition to 10 years. Democrats objected to this provision, saying it could potentially thwart future efforts to lower the cost of some prescription drugs. That provision has now been totally removed from the USMCA." [Vox](#)

"USMCA is expected to create around 176,000 new jobs and inject \$34 billion into the U.S. auto industry, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told FOX Business' Maria Bartiromo, citing International Trade Commission data. He added that as many as 589,000 new jobs could be created within five years... It requires 75 percent of automobile components be manufactured in the United States, Canada and Mexico in order to avoid tariffs, and that 40 to 45 percent of automobile parts be made by workers who earn at least \$16 an hour by 2023.

It further opens Canadian markets to U.S. dairy and poultry, " [FoxBusiness.com](#)

Rep. Kilmer was in a working group streamlining dispute resolution, environmental Protections and tightening loopholes and labor laws. They like the New Bill. Clayton is the one who handles these issues.

### **We Need Rail**

Rail. HR 1-9 are reserved for the speaker for important bills. [HR 2](#) is reserved for an infrastructure bill, which is where they will deal with the need for a robust national rail system to electrify transportation and get people out of their cars.

### **FB Live Town Hall**

From the FB Live hall on Tuesday: <https://www.facebook.com/derek.kilmer/videos/746172579217954/>

## Electoral College Bill

We need Rep. Kilmer to cosponsor the bill to get rid of the Electoral College, [HJRes 7](#). Once it passes, we need 2/3 in house and senate for an amendment.

## Republicans Against Trump

The Rule of Law Republicans are a group of Republicans pushing back against Trump. No Republican voted against impeaching Trump. <https://www.ruleoflawrepublicans.com/>

 **Sheldon Whitehouse**  @SenW... · 1d

This is the pile of House-passed bills, 90% bipartisan, dead on Mitch McConnell's desk in the Senate  
#LegislativeGraveyard



 273  11.7K  21.5K 

## McConnell's Graveyard

More than 275 bills passed by the House are in McConnell's graveyard. Protecting elections, background checks for gun owners, etc., etc. This includes HR1, the robust bipartisan election security bill. He refuses to allow them to be voted on in the Senate. [RollCall](#) And the HR3 prescription drugs bill.

## Rep. Kilmer's Political Director

Rep. Kilmer now has a Political director. He can help us with meetings and events.

## Protect Trees – for Carbon Sequestration

We need to protect trees – people talk about producing less CO<sub>2</sub>, but we also need to protect trees – especially old trees - so that they sequester CO<sub>2</sub>. There is the Wild Olympics bill (Sen. Murray's in the senate, Rep. Kilmer's in the House). It is about the forestry industry doing less damage. It's for the Olympic National forest. The website: [wildolympics.org](http://wildolympics.org)

People need to be more educated about trees and carbon sequestration. Could Congress run a TV / FB campaign asking them to preserve and plant trees?

## Meeting with Kilmer

We can meet with Kilmer in person early in the year. 2020 schedules are out now.

## New Democrat Coalition

We would like a letter to the citizens about what the New Dems are doing. They will work on that. To see their work, go to <https://newdemocratcoalition.house.gov/>

## Earth Week

There will be a Earth week in Port Townsend around April 25<sup>th</sup> like the one they had in Olympia, the south sound environmental group last year. It will be at the Salish elementary building

## Daylight Savings Time Bill

There is a Daylight savings time bill. Kilmer is a cosponsor. [HR 1601](#). It is waiting to be heard in the energy commerce committee.

## Polluting Farms

Next year is the farm bill. We need comprehensive legislation in it to change agriculture, to integrate the use of land for animal and plant and fallow years to protect our environment, prevent famines and feed ourselves better quality food.

We need to:

stop pollution from farms in the form of runoff, methane pollution and use of pesticides and fertilizers.

worry about diseases in animals that are grown in a monoculture and lack genetic diversity.

Think about the lack of micronutrients that go into our foods – if the soil and feed is fertilized, it can lack nutrients that we need.

Think about the output from agriculture affecting the Gulf of Mexico. [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)

Part of the USMCA concerns Mexico and farming. We also need to stop subsidizing sugar. Michelle Obama got shut down by the corn folks. [Thinkprogres.org](http://Thinkprogres.org).

There is lots of flooding in our farmlands. You would think that farmers would want to act on climate change to protect their farms. And their soil is eroded by the floods. They need to change the way they farm to protect the soil. [Reuters.com](http://Reuters.com)

We need a label for higher quality foods to encourage farmers to sell products for higher prices if they adhere to safer and more comprehensive and long term good land management. That would be a relatively low cost way for Congress to enact the change we need.

Rep. Kilmer visited the Kitsap community coop on December 1<sup>st</sup> (below).



## Select Committee for Modernization

Rep. Kilmer is the chair of the Select committee for modernization. They passed 30 bipartisan recommendations to the House and that's never happened before. And Speaker Pelosi has committed

to them are now running the initiative next year too. One of their future plans is to fix the appropriation process and not fund by short term Continuing Resolutions any more. [ModernizeCongress.House.gov](https://www.modernizecongress.house.gov)

### **Retirements**

Mark Meadows, a Western North Carolina Republican is no longer running for office – along with many other retirees. [CNN](https://www.cnn.com) Denny Heck is retiring. He shared a place in DC with Kilmer, and so he will be dearly missed!

### **Health care**

Rep. Kilmer now has a new staffer doing health care. He wants to reinforce the aca. He's in favor of an optional healthcare for all (Medicare?). He's against a mandate. We need to take care of eyes, mental health and all included in the health care options.

Shelley got a handwritten card from Rep Kilmer for going to the DC lobby day with Citizen's Climate Lobby!

We have a lot of retired veterans in the district and Rep. Kilmer's office work a lot for them.

### **Immigrants**

Rep. Kilmer went to the border in August and will go to a detention center next year. Most of the bad attacks on immigrants are by executive order.

### **Logging in the Tongass**

This administration wants to log in the Tongass. "The move would affect more than half of the world's largest intact temperate rainforest, opening it to potential logging, energy and mining projects." [WaPo](https://www.wapo.com) we hope that there will be a legal challenge.

### **Ignored Subpoenas**

If this administration ignores subpoenas they are in contempt of Congress it only takes one house to move a lawsuit against them forward, but lawsuits take years.