

# **Senator Cantwell's Tacoma Office**

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615

April 11, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Olympia Indivisible Delegation Visit with

**Rosa McLeod**

**South Sound & Olympic Peninsula Outreach Director**

Olympia Indivisible Members attending: Kathleen O'Shaunessey,  
Mary Nelson, and Carla Wulfsberg

## **Agenda:**

1. Introduction of Olympia Indivisible delegation
2. Rosa McLeod, introduction

## **THANK YOUs**

### **A. Health Care, Health Issues**

- Thank you for co-sponsoring S. 479 - Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2017. This bill would fix a glitch in the current Medicare coverage, if during routine colonoscopy, the removal of a polyp might occur.
- Thank you for co-sponsoring S. 2135 – Fix NICS Act of 2017 -to enforce current law - National Instant Background Check System. It amends the Brady Handgun bill of 1994. (You signed on 3/7/18)

## **B. Protecting Our Environment**

- Thank you, along with Senator Murray, for supporting high capacity public transit in Snohomish County that, among other benefits, will decrease auto emissions and congestion. The new \$43.19 million dollar grant will support expansion of a 12.5 mile bus rapid transit route between Paine Field/Boeing in Everett and the Regional Growth Center in Bothell and the purchase of 13 new busses.
- Thank you for issuing a statement on April 2 about the Trump Administration’s “misguided rollback of fuel efficiency standards.” We should be maintaining the Obama-era auto mileage standards for 2022-2025. We need more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles.
- Thank you for writing a strong letter on April 5 to Secretary Zinke registering your “continued opposition” to Zinke’s proposal to dramatically increase entrance fees at seventeen of our nation’s most well-loved national parks (from \$25 to \$70). You urged Zinke “to “withdraw the proposed fee increases immediately and begin a transparent public process with public input.” Not only will this entry fee increase exclude many Americans, but it will also disrupt the economy of park gateway communities “that generate almost \$35 billion annually in economic output.”

## **C. Protecting our Democracy**

### **1. Consumer Protection**

- Thank you for standing up for the public to protect them from coal mining companies who leave behind their pollution for the public to clean up. The Government Accountability Office’s report that you requested recommended that the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) prohibit self-bonding.

## **2. Our Tribes, Refugees, and Other Vulnerable Migrant Populations**

- Thank you for joining with Senator Murray to introduce a resolution to recognize the contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States. The resolution also recognizes the importance of promoting equity, providing safety, and upholding the interest of strong, diverse women in the U.S.
- Thank you for joining with other Senators on March 26 to send a letter to Thad Cochran, and Patrick Leahy, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair and Vice Chair, requesting “robust funding for programs affecting refugees and other vulnerable migrant populations.” Your letter clearly spelled out requested allocations and rationale.

## **ASKS**

### **1) Protect our Democracy, Freedom of the Press, and the Census**

#### **ASK: Oppose the confirmation of Mike Pompeo for Secretary of State**

Mike Pompeo’s confirmation hearing for Secretary of State could be as soon as Thursday, Mike Pompeo has tried to destroy diplomacy with Iran, has voiced anti-Muslim bigotry, and supported torture. His appointment as Secretary of State would take us closer to war with Iran, and he could make the crisis with North Korea worse. We do not need a warmonger leading the State Department.

- If Pompeo is confirmed, then Gina Haspel will likely be nominated for head of the CIA. We strongly oppose her nomination. The Senate torture report indicated that the CIA and Haspel committed crimes that went beyond what they were authorized.

**ASK:** Oppose Sinclair's purchase of Tribune Media. Sinclair owns 193 stations reaching 40% of US households across the country and is awaiting approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to purchase Tribune Media. Tribune owns or operates 42 local television stations, reaching more than 50 million households in the largest markets in the US, including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles and would increase Sinclair's reach to 72% of households. Most Americans rely on and trust their local news affiliates, but this merger would create a media empire comparable to Russian or Chinese state media. This purchase would be anti-competitive and would violate anti-trust laws.

**ASK:** Co-sponsor S. 2580, Every Person Counts Act. It is critically important that everyone is counted who is living in the US in 2020. This bill will eliminate questions about US citizenship or immigration status in the census. (Senator Murray has co-sponsored this bill.)

## **2) Protect Our Quality of Life (Gun legislation, gun-related)**

**ASK:** Oppose S. 446 – Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017. This bill weakens gun violence protections. A hearing by the Senate Judiciary was held on March 14.

**ASK:** Co-sponsor S. 1923 – Background Check Completion Act of 2017. We asked you to co-sponsor this bill on March 8, but you still have not signed on. Prohibits firearms dealers from selling a firearm prior to the completion of a background check. This bill extends the Brady background check law of 1994 (which has stopped more than 3 million gun sales to convicted felons, domestic abusers, fugitives from justice and other dangerous people. (Senator Murray co-sponsored S.1923. There are 22 co-sponsors – all Dems.]

**ASK:** Co-sponsor S. 834. We asked you on March 8 to co-sponsor this bill. It authorizes the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. [This bill has 32 co-sponsors, including Senator Murray.]

### **3) War in Yemen, US Aggression in Syria**

**ASK:** Oppose Trump's \$1.3 billion artillery sale to Saudi Arabia! This sale will be final in a few weeks. Congress has not authorized our involvement in this war. US ships in the Red Sea are blocking imports into Yemen and our support of Saudi Arabia is causing the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world right now. We are contributing to the starvation of 8 million people. Twenty-two million people need humanitarian aid, and there are one million suspected cases of cholera and diphtheria in Yemen.

[Democracy Now April 6, 2018]

**ASK:** Co-sponsor S.J. Res.54 and speak out in Congress against the United States support of the Saudi's war in Yemen. You have still not signed on as co-sponsor of Senator Sanders' bill – "A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have **not been authorized by Congress.**"

**ASK:** Trump must be prevented from bombing Syria in retaliation for the nerve gas bombing by the Syrian government. Please speak out.

### **4) Protect Our Veterans**

**ASK:** Oppose any nominee for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who will attempt to privatize the VA health care system or any system designed to dismantle the VA system.

## **5) Protect Our Environment**

**ASK:** In early March, Pruitt announced he would scrap EPA rules restricting the disposal of coal ash, the toxic byproduct from coal-fired power plants. Coal ash often contains arsenic, chromium, lead, and mercury and has caused major water contamination across the country. We asked you on March 8 to confront Pruitt on this issue - protect our water and air.

## **6) Budget - Immigration**

**ASK:** We ask that you continue to work to fix DACA that does not include a border wall. Is there a plan for resolving this or just a temporary extension of DACA, pushing it past the midterm elections?

**Schedule next meeting.**

**Take Photo.**

# Senator Maria Cantwell

## Committee Assignments

### **Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety and Security

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine  
Infrastructure, Safety and Security

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

### **Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources- *Ranking Member***

Subcommittee on Energy

Subcommittee on Water and Power

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining

### **Senate Committee on Finance**

Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure

Subcommittee on Health Care

Member, Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global  
Competitiveness

### **Senate Committee on Indian Affairs**

### **Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship**