

Senator Murray's Tacoma Office

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 650

May 2, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Olympia Indivisible Delegation Visit with
Kierra Phifer, South Sound Director

Olympia Indivisible Members attending Terry Furst, Glenn Hubbard, Charlie Stephens, and Carla Wulfsberg

Agenda:

1. Introduction of Olympia Indivisible delegation
2. Kierra Phifer, introduction

THANK YOUs

A. Protecting Ethics in Government

- Thank you speaking out and writing a letter to Secretary Azar objecting to the \$375,5000 salary of Robert Redfield, the newly-appointed Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His "limited public health experience, particularly in a leadership role" netted him a salary \$150,000 more than his CDC Director predecessors other top federal health officials, including his boss,, Alez Azar." (Reports are that Redfield requested a cut to his salary "because the topic had become such a distraction.") (Letter of April 26, 2018)

B. Protecting Our Environment

- Thank you for joining Senator Cantwell and 27 Democrat Senate colleagues in a letter to Chairman Pat Roberts, US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, expressing your strong opposition to "gutting bedrock U.S. environmental laws with provisions that threaten our air, water, lands, and wildlife." You urged him to bring forward a 2018 Farm Bill that would not undermine key protections for the environment. (Letter of April 26, 2018)

- Thank you for partnering with Senator Cantwell to introduce S. 2720, the Clean Coast Act, “legislation that codifies rules finalized by the Department of the Interior in 2016 to address key safety recommendations made after the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster.” This bill will provide safety measures and increased design and maintenance standards for blowout preventers (the machine that failed and spilled 5 million barrels of oil into the Gulf in 2010.) The Trump administration and the oil industry want to roll back those standards.
- Thank you for sending a letter to the House and Senate leadership criticizing HR 3144 saying the Snake River dams management must include salmon recovery. The bill by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers just passed the House. It will block the spill of water to help young salmon migrating to the ocean. It was received in the Senate on April 26.

C. Protecting Our Rights, Our Net Neutrality, Our Democracy

- Thank you for joining with Senator Cantwell and a bi-partisan group of 50 senators in a letter to Secretary of Defense James Mattis opposing the Trump Administrations’ ban on transgender service members and the Secretary’s implementation recommendations for the ban.
- Thank you for introducing S. 819, the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would direct the Department of Labor to establish and carry out a grant program for negotiation skills training for girls and women, conduct studies to eliminate pay disparities between men and women, and make available information on wage discrimination.
- Thank you for joining with Senator Cantwell and 20 Senate colleagues to send a strong letter to Ajit Pai demanding an end to the FCC’s “ad hoc approach to media ownership” and to comply with Congress’ directive in Section 202(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to “conduct a thorough, fact-based and impartial review of the current state of broadcast ownership and the media marketplace.” (Letter April 26, 2018)
- Thank you for joining Senator Cantwell and all Senate Democrats to vote NO on the confirmation of James Brindstine, NASA administrator. Though he is clearly unqualified to lead the space agency, he was approved in a vote of 50-49 – the closest confirmation in the agency’s history and not traditionally a place where partisan politics arise.

D. Protecting Public Education

- Thank you for your 8-page letter to Sec. of Education, Betsy DeVos (signed by 10 Senators) asking about the “ethics arrangements” for Diane Auer Jones, appointed as senior policy advisory to the Assistant Secretary for Post Secondary Education. Auer Jones would be advising DeVos on regulatory and administrative matters “that directly and indirectly impact her former employer and the for-profit college industry.” (Letter April 26, 2018)

E. Protecting Transportation, State Infrastructure

- Thank you for questioning Secretary of Transportation Chao and holding her accountable to follow through on “critical Washington State infrastructure Investments”, namely awards from Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program for Washington State public transportation projects. Funding has already been approved by Congress (Lynnwood Link extension, Tacoma link, etc.)
- Thank you for asking Secretary Chao to commit to a one-year deadline to establish the National In-Flight Sexual Assault Task Force to create federal rules for the growing problem of sexual assault and harassment on airplanes. This was included in a bipartisan spending bill passed in March 2018.

ASKS

1) Protect Our Democracy

ASK: Oppose the confirmation of Gina Haspel as Director of the CIA. As a longtime CIA officer, Gina Haspel was a central figure in a shameful, horrific chapter of modern American history. She both ran a secret detention facility, or "black site," in Thailand, and carried out an order to cover up torture by destroying videotaped evidence. Her confirmation would send a message to the American people, U.S. government personnel, and the international community that the use of torture is not only condoned by America, it's rewarded.

Ask: Protect the public's access to information at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Mick Mulvaney, acting director of the CFPB, has indicated that he might end the public's access to consumer reports about inaccurate debt collections, illegal fees, improper overdraft charges, mistakes on loans and other problems. The Bureau has maintained an open searchable data base since 2011 which has pushed companies to take complaints more seriously.

Ask: Protect net neutrality. The Senate may vote on Senator Markey's resolution of disapproval sometime in May.

2) Protect the Vulnerable in our Society

ASK: Oppose HUD's proposal to change to federal housing subsidies. Secretary Ben Carson's new "low-rent reform" would increase rent payments for more than 2 million of the nation's poorest. This "reform" would allow housing authorities across the country to require residents to work. Dubbed "The Making Affordable Housing Work Act" is a bill that Congress would have to approve. HUD cannot unilaterally change the rent rules.

ASK: Support S.1917, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. This bipartisan effort would reduce racial disparity in sentencing, decrease the expense of ineffective mandatory minimums and increase judicial discretion in sentencing non-violent drug offenders.

3) Protect Our Quality of Life

ASK: Oppose the merger of Sprint and T-Mobile. This purchase would be anti-competitive and would violate anti-trust laws. Competition is beneficial for the consumer. Under President Trump, antitrust enforcement has become unpredictable.

4) War in Yemen, US Aggression in Syria

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.**" Neither you nor Senator Cantwell has co-sponsored this bill. Why not?

ASK: Please in the future speak out forcefully against the unauthorized US military aggression in Syria and in Yemen. On April 13, your statement about the US missile strikes in Syria as retaliation for the use of chemical weapons did not condemn the Trump Administration for not providing a strategy to end the conflict, the humanitarian crisis, and did not state that Congress needs to authorize and further military escalation. Your statement said that you had a "number of questions and concerns" about the action and wanted answers. This is not a strong statement against unauthorized force by the US military.

5) Meet With Your Constituents

ASK: We ask that you hold at least one town hall in Western Washington during the next recess. Your constituents in Olympia Indivisible would like to meet with you. You have not offered one town hall since Trump was elected.

Schedule next meeting. Take Photo.

Senator Patty Murray

Committee Assignments

Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee - Ranking Member

Employment and Workplace Safety
Children and Families Subcommittee

Appropriations Committee

Within the Appropriations Committee, **Senator Murray is
Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, and Education.**

Murray also serves on the following subcommittees:

**Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee**

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

**Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and
Related Agencies**

Defense Subcommittee

Homeland Security Subcommittee

Committee on the Budget

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Democratic Leadership - Conference Secretary