

Senator Cantwell's Tacoma Office

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615

May 23, 2017 – 11:30 a.m.

Olympia Indivisible Delegation Visit with

Rosa McLeod,

South Sound & Olympia Peninsula Outreach Director

Olympia Indivisible Members attending:

Marsha Ammons, Roxanne Lieb, Jen Merrill, and Carla Wulfsberg

Agenda:

Introduction of Olympia Indivisible delegation

Rosa McLeod, introduction

THANK YOUs

1. Russian Investigation

Thank you for speaking out on CNN and for calling for an independent prosecutor to investigate Russia's interference.

Thank you for joining with 10 other senators urging the Inspector General of the Dept. of Justice Department to investigate whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions violated his recusal from the investigation into Russia's interference with the 2016 election when he recommended to Trump that he fire FBI Director Comey.

2. Internet Neutrality

Thank you for aggressively educating your constituents about how the FCC is threatening internet neutrality. Your website offers excellent instructions and a way to comment.

NOTES: The Senator is concerned about the impact on small businesses, including those owned by women, and rural access. She has been working in increase internet access for coastal tribes; in a tribal school, only three children at a time can access the internet and this is a big problem with state testing. The Senator has put pressure on Century Link and they have agreed to add fiber to the area, hopefully by July.

3. Environment, National Monuments, Public Lands

Thank you for your public statements and standing with environmentalists to uphold the Obama –era rule that forces energy companies to capture methane that’s burned off or “flare” at drilling sites. This was big win in the Senate with a 51-49 vote. (*Normangee Star*, May 15, 2017)

Thank you for pledging to fight any challenge to the Hanford Reach National Monument as it has been characterized as both needless and a time-waster.

Thank you for your letter of May 15 to John Thune and Bill Nelson of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation urging them to include regulatory reforms for the FAA which bring new safety technology to the market, strengthen US aviation sales and exports, and more effectively utilized the resources of the FAA and industry. (She and Roy Blunt wrote letter that was co-signed by Senator Murray and 23 other senators).

NOTES: The Senator had a press conference on this issue at SeaTac. There is discussion about having more bomb-sniffing dogs in the passenger entry area as well as increase training for TSA agents. The Senator supports a passengers’ bill of rights. SeaTac is the fifth fastest growing airport in the country for passengers and it keeps breaking records.

Thank you for opposing and speaking out against the confirmation of David Bernhardt for the No. 2 position in the Department of the Interior stating that you are "gravely concerned about Mr. Bernhardt's record of working on behalf of corporations at the expense of the environment, and his history at the Department of the Interior during years plagued by ethical scandals."

NOTES: There are egregious conflicts of interest in many cabinet officials.

OUR ASKS

4. Russian Interference Investigation - ASK

Please vote for Senate Bill 27 which would create an Independent Commission that operates with full transparency about the Russian interference in our election.

To restore our democracy’s credibility, we need hearings and testimony and reports – all public. Only a special select committee of Congress can provide that. The Special Counsel was a step in the right direction, but will

operate behind closed doors and the public may never find out about what exactly happened beyond what can be criminally charged. We citizens have the right to know every aspect of what happened, who did what, and why they did it.

NOTES: The Senator is looking at the bill and considering signing on as a sponsor. Senator Cantwell is very deliberative and often takes time to make up her mind on issues.

5. Health Care - ASK

Please continue your opposition to TrumpCare and defend the ACA.

GOP senators say they are discussing a possible short-term bill if their health care talks drag on. Time is important, especially with Trump's problems distracting lawmakers. Insurance companies could grow increasingly spooked by the uncertainty and make health care markets even worse by raising premiums or pulling out. We hope you can delay the vote on Trumpcare because the longer it takes Republicans to write the legislation, the less time they'll have for tax cuts and other GOP priorities.

NOTES: The Senator is very concerned that there are no women on the commission. She wants to move forward on fixing pieces of the ACA that need fixing. Expect to see the Republicans rush a bill through the Senate before the August recess. The Senator needs personal stories from her constituents about how the consequences to their health should they lose ACA coverage. These stories will help the Senator to delay the vote prior to the August Congressional Recess.

We asked about attention needed for the high costs of prescription drugs. The Senator supports concerns about these. She did not sign on to the Sanders bill concerning prescription drugs from other countries because there are not necessary FDA checks depending on the country where they are manufactured. Canada may have drug standards but not all countries.

6. Global Gag Rule – Family Planning - ASK

Please immediately contact USAID, the State Department and the Department of Defense, to protest the gag rule placed on family planning assistance. Please support legislation that guarantees funding to international medical aid groups regardless whether the group supports or discusses or offers abortions.

NOTES: The Senator will use all the tools at her disposal to work on this issue.

Please assert pressure against Jeff Sessions' New War On Drugs. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is looking to reinstate the failed War on Drugs, calling for law enforcement to follow the most severe penalties possible. We are opposed to this strategy because it is a failed policy. We ask that you please do anything you can to influence this outdated "law enforcement."

NOTES: The War on Drugs is recognized as racist and the Senator will not support it. The data is clear on differentiated impact on minorities. The public mood has changed.

7. Elections - ASK

Please say No To Voter Suppression.

We do not support the so-called Commission on "Election Integrity," and that we request that the Senator resist any attempts in Congress to support or aid this commission. On May 11 an executive order was signed establishing a Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Vice-President Pence is the chair of the commission, that will "study the registration and voting processes used in Federal elections" and will "be solely advisory". In addition, "The Commission shall hold public meetings and engage with Federal, State, and local officials, and election law experts, as necessary, to carry out its mission." Republicans typically use fraud claims to justify voting law restrictions, suppressing voter turnout among minorities and those who are less well-off.

NOTES; Connect with the Thurston County Auditor's office to see if they might have resources to track the Commission's activities. We asked what action we might take. Find election law experts, perhaps at the ACLU, to write letters to the editor. Also to encourage opinion leaders in our community to write letters to the editor.

OTHER: We appreciate both Senator Cantwell and Murray's denouncement of the Trump Administration's threat to cancel federal funds approved in Fiscal 2016 for CIG grants for Transit Projects. US Secretary of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao (Sen. Mitch McConnell's wife) and Mick Mulvaney, OM Budge Director, are making these cuts. This will impact projects and jobs in 20 states, including \$193.3 million in Washington State.

OTHER: There is organized resistance to the Northwest Detention Center. There is an active Facebook group and Northwest Immigration Rights. A group, SURGE, provides food to the visiting families of those detained.

Schedule next meeting and take a photo.