



Dear Neighbors,

This past week in Washington, we were supposed to continue the government funding bills for next year. However, due to House Republicans fealty to President Trump and his whims when it comes to concealing the Epstein files, our legislative week was cut short. While I was in DC, trying to prevent drastic cuts to the EPA, National Park Services, and foreign aid, my staff was working to ensure polluters pay for their impact on the climate and the effects of the violent storms we've seen in recent weeks.

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Shutting Down Congress to Conceal the Epstein Files

We learned this week that Donald Trump is [named numerous times](#) in documents related to the case against Jeffrey Epstein. I can't say I'm surprised that an [adjudicated rapist](#) who bragged about how he could [sexually assault women](#) because he was rich, is mentioned in the Epstein files. But it does help explain Republican Speaker Mike Johnson's decision to [shut down Congress](#) for over a month, rather than allow a vote on the House floor to release the documents. Republicans have completely surrendered to Donald Trump and are now [openly admitting](#) that their plan is to provide cover for the president, even when it comes to something as serious as Jeffrey Epstein's crimes.

Trump Corruption World Tour

Donald Trump has spent more than \$26 million of taxpayer money playing golf at his own private clubs, just since he took office in January. Every time Trump goes and stays at one of his own properties, he charges the Secret Service (whose budget is paid for by taxpayers) exorbitant rates to stay at his hotels, up to \$1,800 per night. He did this during his first term, too. Last time, his properties took in over \$150 million of taxpayer money on trips to his own properties. Donald Trump is the most corrupt president of my lifetime. Watch below:

East Brunswick Passport Clinic

Will you be traveling internationally this summer?

On Wednesday, July 30th, from 2PM - 5PM, my office will be hosting a Passport Clinic at the East Brunswick Library where you can get help:

- * renewing your passport
- * applying for a new passport
- * getting your passport photo

RSVP [here](#)



Plainfield

While I was in DC fighting disastrous cuts, members of my staff attended a gathering in Plainfield with other State and Local elected officials to demand the funding of NOAA, FEMA and the National Weather Service and swift passage of the [Climate Superfund Act](#) on the State and Federal level.



The impacts of climate change are here. The consequences of polluters releasing carbon dioxide into our atmosphere can be seen here in Plainfield and around the state. From flooding in North Jersey, powerful thunderstorms in Central Jersey and tornadoes in South Jersey, we are seeing what happens when we allow polluters to write our environmental policy. It's time polluters pay for the damage they're causing to our climate.

Government Funding

This week in the Appropriations Committee, House Republicans pushed through two

extremely harmful government funding proposals. These bills are pure partisan wishlists. Historically, government funding is a bipartisan process where both sides meet in good faith to determine how the government should allocate its resources. This time around, Republicans have cut Democrats out of the process entirely and pursued a narrow, extremist set of proposals that would weaken our country at home and abroad.

For example, the Republican funding bill makes a 93% cut to the State Department's Administration of Foreign Assistance. This comes after Trump and DOGE dismantled USAID, and then said foreign assistance would be handled by the State Department. US foreign aid funding is credited with saving 90 million lives over the past 20 years, including 30 million children under the age of 5. That's one child saved because of American intervention every 20 seconds. I spoke out in strong opposition to these cuts. Watch below:



Famine in Gaza

What we are witnessing in Gaza is a [humanitarian disaster](#) beyond measure. Aid agencies have warned for over a year that a famine was coming, and now it's here.

The death of any child from hunger is an indictment of the systems and leaders that allowed it to happen, but the aid distribution system in Gaza is failing by design. Aid trucks are stuck at the border while people in Gaza are dying without food, clean water, medicine, or fuel. Aid groups report that over 90,000 women and children are [suffering from severe malnutrition](#), with a third of the population going days without food. The Israeli military has reduced the number of humanitarian access sites from 400 to just four. Meanwhile, since May, over 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces [while trying to reach aid](#).

The use of [starvation as a weapon](#) is a war crime under International law, but Prime Minister Netanyahu has proven he has no regard for human life or the law, and so has no issue deploying such barbaric tactics in the continued ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

There must be an immediate end to the blockade, the full restoration of humanitarian access, and the enforcement of a ceasefire. Every day without these steps costs lives. No government should be allowed to use food as a tool of war, and no government, especially ours, should have the privilege to look away.

Undermining the EPA

Earlier this week, the New York Times [reported](#) that the Trump administration is trying to roll back an EPA policy that acknowledges greenhouse gas emissions are dangerous to public health.

The policy is known as the "endangerment finding" and affirms the EPA's position that greenhouse gases warm the planet and harm human beings. The Trump administration

is trying to reverse this policy, to deny the reality of climate change, and to reverse nearly all EPA standards governing fossil fuel emissions.

This is a gift to Trump's corporate polluter pals, but it's terrible for everyone else. We've already seen the consequences of increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters. Ignoring the problem of climate change won't make it go away. It'll only make us more vulnerable to it. This attempt to rollback the EPA's basic understanding of climate change is just another way this administration is trying, slowly but surely, to kill us.



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