

# SOUTH JERSEY IMPEACH GROUP

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September 18, 2007

Rep. Steve Rothman  
c/o Mr. Kevin Donnelly, District Director  
25 Main Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Dear Congressman Rothman,

It is with deep regret that I am unable to travel to Hackensack from Camden County today to meet with Mr. Donnelly as he joins with my co-leaders in the NJ Impeach Groups and other leaders in New Jersey to discuss our Constitutional crisis.

I have written to you previously regarding the abuse of power by President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney and was pleased to receive a reply. You expressed great concern over the possibility that Mr. Cheney disclosed the identity of a U.S. covert intelligence agent, about his role in the manipulation of pre-war intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program and Iraqi partnership with al Qaeda as well as his role in threatening a war against Iran. You assured me that you would "keep our shared concerns very much in mind."

Of course, the Bush administration has engaged in other abuses including government sanctioned torture, suspension of habeas corpus, more than one thousand signing statements designed to hold the President above the law, and warrantless wiretapping (a felony). Each of these represents serious attacks on our Constitution and rule of law in our country. I honestly do not know what more a President and Vice President could do to warrant impeachment. I trust that my colleagues will express to Mr. Donnelly the urgency of this situation and that nothing, including the time left in office, the number of votes, the 2008 election season should take precedence over protecting our Constitution.

As I expressed in my previous letter, our country is protected by men and women who have taken an oath to protect our Constitution from enemies foreign and domestic. They took that oath with the understanding that they may have to lay down their lives. My immediate neighborhood is currently lined with hundreds of American flags as we await the return of one of our country's finest, a Marine, who was killed in Anbar Province Friday. He was scheduled to return home today to his family and new wife after finishing his second tour. I have not included his name in this letter out of respect for his family, but I am sure you are aware that NJ has lost yet another son. Members of Congress do not have to lay down their lives, we are asking only that they stand up.

*Saving Our World One American at a Time*

The concerns that I expressed in this letter as well as the ones that you shared in yours demand investigation. Impeachment is a process. It begins with a careful investigation and that is where you will get the answers to our questions regarding the actions of the President and Vice President. We ask that you sign onto H. Res. 333. Additionally, as that resolution is quite limited in its breadth of charges, we are looking for members of Congress to address, through the filing of articles of impeachment, torture, illegal spying, a war of aggression, and the abuse of power via signing statements by President George W. Bush.

Many democratic representatives believe that impeachable offenses have occurred, but repeat the talking point that there "isn't enough time." For what? To protect the Constitution? How many more generations do you hope this republic will last? Can you honestly look at our Constitution that is actively under assault and concern yourself with time? If these abuses are not challenged vigorously and in a meaningful way before this President and VP leave office, you will have effectively altered the structure of our government. The other talking point floating around is "there aren't enough votes." What piece of legislation ever starts with enough votes? There weren't enough votes when the process began with Richard Nixon. It was the investigations and subsequent revelations that garnered the votes. So, I ask you today to allow that process to unfold. That is all we are asking. The American people are watching closely. Watching to see which of our elected officials will rise to the occasion when the oath they took is put to the test.

Finally, may I add that many in the Democratic leadership are obviously focused solely on the 2008 elections. Please understand from a lifelong Democrat that we will not be going down with the ship. The high crimes and misdemeanors of this administration in our minds are already established. The only thing worse is a Party that believes they can ride high on the failures of the other without holding them accountable. Please do not make that mistake.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Biren-Wright  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Chair, South Jersey Impeach Team