

TAKE BACK OUR REPUBLIC

246B East Glenn Avenue, Auburn Alabama 36830 | Phone: 334-329-7258 | Website: www.takeback.org

September 6, 2018

The Hon. Doug Jones
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Please support S.1117 and H.R. 2319

Dear Elected Officials:

For nearly a decade I ran the political operation for one of the greatest grassroots organizations in the country today – the Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA). The thing I loved the most about the job was the incredible grassroots focus which helped me learn from leaders of all 67 County Farmers Federations as I traveled the state to train and recruit candidates.

When I taught a session at an American Farm Bureau meeting or political leaders, one of the practice sessions involved a mock campaign that came down to a choice of county roads vs tax reduction – two of the most important items for rural America but also two that could actually both be achieved. I took that lesson to a race near Richmond, Virginia in which a longshot candidate legislative candidate who was at 7 percent in the FINAL polling and then focused on rural roads and infrastructure and surged in the final weekend to lose by a couple of hundred votes. A couple of years later, I went back to the supporters from that campaign and launched the upset victory by Dave Brat.

So many of the lessons I learned from years of work in rural communities played into my decision to start Take Back Our Republic. Our work to reform makes sure that foreign influences do not impact our political process so that people believe we need to choose between tax relief and rural roads, with S.1660 and H.R. 1341 designed to stop foreign influence in our elections. I believe a perfect example of the choice between “rural roads” and other infrastructure and low taxes is a false dilemma is shown by the excellent Consumer Financial Choice and Capital

Markets Protection Act (S. 1117 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 2319 in the House of Representatives).

This path between the horns of the dilemma brings more private sector investment to our communities without cost to taxpayers. A recent business publication notes that this “plan is a bipartisan bill that would reverse the effects of an ill-advised Washington regulation that has made it more expensive to invest in schools, hospitals, affordable housing and other public infrastructure projects across our state and nation.”

I realize elected officials are often the victims of the political-industrial complex that is so skewed to Wall Street interests over rural American and Main Street USA. Whatever you think of national figures, I believe the resentment toward insider deals that was the focus of our upset of Majority Leader Eric Cantor also fueled the rebellion that led to Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders and the recent Democratic upsets that mirrored Dave Brats win. I believe S.1117 and H.R. 2319 are one of the strongest solid steps against insider deals, and I appreciate your consideration of these measures.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Pudner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Pudner, Executive Director