

April 2, 2025

Dear Senator Schumer:

We write to urge you in the strongest terms to step down as Senate Minority Leader so that someone more prepared and willing to fight the disastrous Musk-Trump agenda can step up and lead. During the recent fight over the continuing resolution, you surrendered one of the very few points of leverage Democrats have to stop the full scale dismantling of key government functions and Musk-Trump's complete disregard for Congressional actions. Further, it was evident throughout the process that there was no plan, no message, and no strategy. We face an existential crisis for our food, water, health, communities, and climate. We simply cannot afford more of the same.

Trump, Musk and the Republican Congress are engaging in an assault on basic government functions. Their DOGE program is cutting or eliminating many critical programs that include consumer protection from corporate fraud, clean water and food safety and assistance, education, renewable energy, and health care and retirement and access to them including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. These are key programs that provide support for people's basic needs, public health, and environmental protections.

Because the continuing resolution required 60 votes in the Senate, the Republican majority needed Democratic support. It was one of the few points of leverage that Democrats will have to extract concessions to slow or stop this illegal and unprecedented attack on basic protections for working people and the environment. The entire House Democratic Caucus (with one exception) voted against the CR. The vast majority of Democratic Senators voted against it. The American Federation of Government Employees urged opposition to it, seeing it as a key mechanism to stop the ongoing attack on federal workers.

Rather than leading, you chose to side with Republicans and allow the passage of the CR, with not a single concession. It is clear there was no strategy around the fight and no communication plan. Frankly, there hasn't been since the start of the Trump administration. You simply gave your vote and support, receiving nothing in return except praise from Trump. This is inexcusable. As former Speaker Pelosi said in rebuking your approach, "don't give away anything for nothing."

Senator Schumer, you have lost the confidence of elected Democrats and you have lost the confidence of our organizations. We need strong leadership to really fight the Musk-Trump agenda. We need a leader who will tell a clear story about what Musk and Trump are doing, who will hold daily briefings with key messages, who will rally the people and organize in congressional districts across the country, and who will engage forcefully and clearly in the media - including alternative media.

Allow a Democratic Senator who can do all these things to step up and lead. It's time to do the right thing. It's time to step down as Senate Minority Leader.

Sincerely,

Food & Water Watch
Progressive Democrats of America
Center for Biological Diversity

Citizens United for Renewable Energy
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Families NYC
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Organizing Hub
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Eco-Logic
For All
For the Many
FreshWater Accountability Project
Fridays For Future NYC
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Gas Free Seneca
Generation Green
Giniw Collective
Human Nature
Indivisible Brooklyn
Indivisible East Bay
Indivisible Yolo
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow
New Jersey Tenants Organization
New York Communities for Change
NextDem
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
North Kitsap Indivisible
NYPAN Greene
Ocean Conservation Research
Oil and Gas Action Network
Oil Change International
Our Revolution East Bay
Physicians for Social Responsibility Iowa
Progressive Democrats of America - Arizona
Progressives for Climate
Queers 4 Voting Rights
Rise and Resist
RootsAction.org
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Saphira Merkabah
Seneca Lake Guardian
South Jersey Progressive Democrats
Teaneck Peace and Justice Vigil
The Texas Drought Project
The Wei LLC
Turn Nassau Blue
Turtle Island Restoration Network
United For Clean Energy
Veterans For Peace - Baltimore Chapter
Washington State Progressive Caucus
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club of the East Bay
Young Progressive Democrats of America