**Minutes**

Coordinated Indivisible Group Meeting with Michael Sullivan

State Outreach Director for U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Attending the meeting were Willie, Teri, Benita, Denise, Debbie and Scott

Willie opened the meeting by sending our thanks to the senator for his stance on the family separation issue as well as his statement on solar tariffs and his support for LGBTQ rights.

Willie asked if the senator had made any statement on the North Korea summit. Michael said there was no statement so far. Michael feels that this is a new approach to an old problem and is willing to see how it goes.

Senator Heinrich is sponsoring Senate Bill 3036, introduced by Diane Feinstein, the Keep Families Together Act. Michael said the current situation is severely straining the court system because they are putting every person through the judicial system. One of the complexities of the current situation is that the parents are put into DHS (Department of Homeland Security), while the children are in the care of HHS (Health and Human Services).

Michael spoke about the detention facilities that were previously located in New Mexico, some with serious problems. At the time, the facilities for children were only for truly unaccompanied minors. There are currently no children’s facilities in New Mexico. The current facilities are mostly in Texas and California.

Michael said that there are not many children or families that attempt to cross the New Mexico border because it is very remote and hostile. For the most part, the issue there is drug smuggling rather than refugees.

Willie brought up McConnell’s canceling of the August recess. Michael said this had happened before, but eventually most of the recess was reinstated, so he wasn’t sure if the entire recess would be affected.

The various spending bills are moving along. Nothing much to report at this stage.

The Farm Bill is moving slowly. Trump wants states to impose a work requirement on SNAP for the tribes, taking no account of the sovereignty or treaty issues. The Senate bill does not have the same sort of requirements.

When asked if there was any possibility of legislation to stop the tariffs from being imposed, Michael said it was a possibility, noting that frequently this hasn’t been necessary because of the frequent court challenges that keep the executive orders from being enacted.

Senator Heinrich introduced a bill to create White Sands National Park last month. This bill has been included in the NDAA budget (National Defense Authorization Act), which he was able to do because the bill includes boundary changes to the White Sands Missile Range, because nothing dealing with public lands is moving in this congress. Michael said the entire process of negotiating the details of the park and getting the bill introduced happened much faster than usual.

Scott asked if there was anything happening regarding getting money out of politics. Michael said nothing was happening in Congress and that these kinds of changes might have to come from state and local governments.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday July 10th at 2:00 pm