



PRESS RELEASE

Open Letter to Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders

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CALAIS, VT – Earlier today, Indivisible Calais sent the following “Open Letter”, co-signed by 328 Vermonters from around the state, to Senator Patrick Leahy and Senator Bernie Sanders encouraging them to support elimination of the Senate filibuster. This letter also strengthens our pending requests which were submitted to each respective Senate office weeks ago for a Zoom meeting with each of them and members of the Vermont Indivisible Network at their earliest convenience.

“Indivisible Calais is very grateful for the leadership of both Senators on many issues of crucial importance to all Americans,” said Ginny Sassaman, a co-founder of Indivisible Calais. “Now, it is extremely important for them to take a strong position to eliminate the archaic, Jim Crow era Senate filibuster. There is nothing romantic about this peculiar Senate tool. The filibuster stands in the way of the vital work the Senate must do. Vermonters are strong in our desire to see Senators Leahy and Sanders join the movement to do what’s best for all Americans, and kill the filibuster now.”

Indivisible is a grassroots movement with thousands of local chapters and more than a million members nationwide. Its mission is to elect progressive leaders, strengthen our American democracy, resist a Republican agenda intolerant of diversity and destructive to democracy, and fight for Democratic and Progressive policies.

“Victory is not just in elections. Victory will come with legislation,” said Barbara Butler, Indivisible Calais co-founder. “Congress must pass HR-1/S-1: ‘For the People Act’, HR-4/S-4: ‘John Lewis Voting Rights Act’, HR-51/S-51: DC Statehood, and other federal legislation in order to protect all voters and their voting rights.”

Indivisible chapters around the country – and here in Vermont – have built lasting power on our own home turf, as well as a national, collective political muscle ready to be exercised each and every day in every corner of the country. Action by action, day by day, group by group, Indivisibles nationwide are working to rebuild and strengthen democracy.

Indivisibles across the country and here in Vermont strive to build a democracy that reflects a broad, multi-racial government – one that works for all of us and is sustained by all of us. A real democracy – of, by, and for the people.

Local Indivisible groups build and wield power in ways that individuals alone are not able to. To create positive change, the Vermont Indivisible Network is using the collective constituent power that comes with working together.

Indivisible Calais formed in November 2016, only one week after the 2016 presidential election. It is a group of concerned citizens committed to organizing and supporting local, state and national actions to defend and preserve social justice, the environment, and America's Constitutional rights and liberties. Indivisible Calais engages in a variety of educational, activist and fundraising activities while keeping discourse civil. Neither Calais residency nor prior activism is needed to join this vibrant community of peaceful resisters.

Indivisible Calais urges a Zoom meeting or public Zoom Town Hall with Senators Leahy and Sanders and members of the Vermont Indivisible Network as soon as possible. We ask them to hear us out and know we will support their stand to eliminate the Senate filibuster.

Our “Open Letter” to Senator Patrick Leahy and Senator Bernie Sanders, co-signed by 328 Vermonters, is attached.

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