



January 14, 2026

Senator Jim Banks

1300 S. Harrison St.

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Dear Senator Banks,

Indivisible Northeast Indiana would like to express disappointment at your NO vote Jan. 8 to advance the War Powers Resolution on Venezuela. As you said, “I won’t vote to tie the president’s hands.” According to the Constitution of the United States, which you took an oath to uphold, “tying the president’s hands” is sometimes the role of the Congress in which you serve.

For example, the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the exclusive power to declare war and make rules concerning captures on land and water, as detailed in Article I, Section 8.

We urge you to vote YES when the War Powers Resolution on Venezuela comes before the Senate again on Jan. 14. And we hope you will thoughtfully consider supporting any future War Powers Resolutions.

Indivisible Northeast Indiana has ongoing concerns related to the administration and its actions in Venezuela, as well as the other ways in which it has undermined Congress’ constitutional role as a check on unbridled executive power:

- Trump has usurped Congress’ authority from Day One. Why do you continue to allow actions such as:
 - Impounding funds allocated by Congress.
 - DOGE’s eliminating or decimating agencies created by Congress.

- Imposing tariffs, another power granted to Congress by Article I, Section 8.
 - Risking U.S. service members' lives without a Congressional declaration of war.
- Trump, 79, is clearly in poor health and has lost his mental faculties. He's in worse shape than Joe Biden ever was.
 - When we see him, it's when he's at his best.
 - Even then, he's falling asleep in Cabinet meetings.
 - What is he like when he's not in the public view?
 - If he were your family member, wouldn't you be taking away his car keys and getting him help?
- Who is actually running the show?
 - Steven Miller? White supremacist attempting an ethnic cleansing.
 - Marco Rubio? Cuban-American with a desire for retribution against the Cuban regime. By destabilizing Venezuela, he hopes to also destabilize Cuba.
 - Russell Vought? Architect of Project 2025, which only 12-14 percent of Americans support.
- Why aren't you intervening?
 - Hoosiers didn't elect any of them!
 - They all have their own self-serving agendas and don't care about us.
- If you believe Trump really IS in charge, why are you letting a mentally incompetent person initiate military actions without getting the approval of Congress?
- Do you support Trump's claim that the capture of Maduro was about stopping drug trafficking when he pardoned the former president of Honduras, who was sentenced to 45 years in prison after a U.S. federal jury found him guilty of conspiring to import cocaine into the United States?
- What is the plan for Venezuela, and why should we support it?
 - The administration hasn't communicated a clear plan to the American people.

- Even members of the administration don't know what's happening and have contradicted each other and changed their stories over time.
- Maduro's regime is still in power; so, what has really changed?
- At what cost are we intervening in the sovereign nation of Venezuela?
 - This is supposed to be the most transparent administration in history.
 - How much did this Jan. 3 military operation cost? What about the cost of the 35 strikes so far on alleged drug boats that have killed 123 people?
 - What is the cost of stationing a huge portion of the U.S. Navy off Venezuela? It costs millions of dollars just to move an aircraft carrier.
 - What will it cost American taxpayers to "run" Venezuela?
 - Will there be tax incentives or other subsidies for big U.S. oil companies to extract oil from Venezuela since the head of ExxonMobil describes Venezuela as "uninvestable"?
- How can you justify these expenses when the administration is cutting:

○ US AID	○ Education
○ Veterans' services	○ Food programs
○ Farm programs	○ SNAP benefits
○ Health care	○ Child care
○ Medicaid	○ Medical research
- The only country the administration should be running is the United States. It can't even handle that. Instead, it wastes OUR TAX MONEY. How can you justify the expense of these actions?
 - Funding tax cuts for the richest Americans by slashing safety-net benefits such as Medicaid and SNAP for the poorest.
 - Allocating more than \$170 billion over four years for border and interior enforcement, with a stated goal of deporting 1 million immigrants each year. That is more than the yearly budget for all local and state law enforcement agencies combined across the entire United States. As a result, masked and ill-trained ICE and Border Patrol are on our streets kidnapping our neighbors, zip-tying children in the middle of the night, and shooting American citizens.

- Mobilizing National Guard troops to U.S. cities.
- Deporting and renditioning people without due process.
- Paying other countries, such as El Salvador, to imprison and torture immigrants.
- Paying private airlines to remove immigrants.
- Paying private prison companies to build and operate detention centers.
- Bailing out Argentina.
- Subsidizing big oil and other big corporations.
- Hiding the Epstein files and then paying FBI agents overtime to redact information.
- Incinerating food aid instead of providing it to starving children.
- Tolerating rampant corruption. (Trump's Qatari plane, Kristi Noem's jets, Kash Patel's government-paid trips to see his girlfriend, etc.). There are too many examples to list.
- Hosting international war criminal Putin and rolling out the red carpet for him.
- Granting asylum to white Afrikaners on the basis of imaginary persecution.
- Demolishing the White House's East Wing, paving over the Rose Garden, and building a massive gilded ballroom without Congressional approval.
- You claim to be concerned with fiscal responsibility. How can you support this administration's actions?
 - Exploding our deficit and national debt.
 - Weakening our economic standing in the world.
 - Weakening the dollar.
 - Risking the U.S. dollar's role as the world's currency for international trade.
 - Disrupting global trade and economic relationships.
 - Harming our farmers' export markets by eliminating USAID and waging a tariff war.

- Threatening the independence of the Federal Reserve to set interest rates based on data and economic principles to maintain full employment and low inflation for all of us instead of bowing to the administration's demands for lower interest rates to temporarily goose the economy but drive up inflation in the long term.
- Do you support the administration's foreign policy, which is:
 - Destroying the rules-based international order, which has prevented another world war for 80 years.
 - Reducing the safety and security of all Americans around the world, including Hoosiers.
 - Increasing the likelihood of widespread wars.
 - Breaking alliances.
 - Reducing our access to shared intelligence information.
 - Sacrificing the United States' long-standing influence around the world in exchange for control of the much smaller Western Hemisphere, while giving power over the rest of the world to Russia and China.
 - Relinquishing the United States' position in cutting-edge research and technology to other countries (e.g., such as renewable-energy technology to China).

Trump promised to put America First, end foreign wars and lower prices. Instead, he is causing higher inflation, including big increases in health care costs. He is spending record amounts of money after promising to cut government and costs. He is exploding the national debt with his One Big, Beautiful Bill Act. And he has invaded one sovereign nation and is threatening military action in others, including the territory of a NATO ally.

This administration is taking power not given to it by the Constitution, Congress, the law or the people. It is time for Congress to take back its power. **Republicans in Congress could stop this outrage any time they choose.** In the end, we the people lend our power to elected officials, and we can – and will – take it back.

Thank you to your staff for meeting with us.

Sincerely,

Indivisible Northeast Indiana