



Talking Points for March 13, 2018

Trump says NO! to Gateway Project, Threatening N.J., U.S. economies

In what appears to a vindictive move, President Trump would rather shut down the U.S. government than allow federal funding for the \$30 billion Hudson River Gateway Tunnel project – all because N.J. and N.Y. voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016.

- Trump is threatening to veto a \$1.3 trillion spending bill – and shut down the federal government – if it includes Gateway project funding, [reports Politico](#).
- The Gateway tunnel is desperately needed. The current tunnel dates to 1910 and is [key to 20% of the nation's gross domestic product](#). The project is widely considered to be among the nation's most pressing and expensive infrastructure needs.
- [The Northeast accounts for](#) 30% of all U.S. jobs and contributes \$3 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. It's home to 51 million people – one in 7 Americans.
- The Obama administration reached an agreement with N.Y. and N.J., which pledged to finance 50% of the project. The federal government would pay the rest. **Trump reneged on that agreement.**
- *"The president is concerned about the viability of this project and ... that New York and New Jersey have no skin in the game,"* [Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao](#) Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to Congress on March 6. N.Y. and N.J. *"are two of the richest states in the country ... They need to step up."*
- **Yet N.J. and N.Y. had already committed to paying half the project costs!**
- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin insulted N.J. taxpayers when he said, ["We want to get the federal government out of the business of subsidizing the states."](#)
- But N.J. reaps the smallest return in the nation on its federal taxes – **getting back just 74 cents for every \$1 paid**, according to a Rockefeller Institute report.
- New Jersey residents send nearly \$3,500 per person more to Washington than they receive from the federal government, the [Rockefeller Institute report](#) noted.
- Ten House Republicans, including four from N.J. – but not Frelinghuysen – signed a letter urging House Speaker Paul Ryan to reject Trump's threats and include money for the Gateway project in a federal government spending bill.
- "It seems very clear that a guiding principle of the Trump administration is to punish people who didn't support him," [said Matthew Hale, a Seton Hall University political science professor](#).
- **The impotence of Northeast Republicans in Congress – and Trump's hostility to the region – demonstrates why the area and the nation need to elect Democrats and retake the House and the Senate this fall.**

The Gateway Tunnel Project would include:

- replacing the Portal North Bridge in N.J., which is a source of frequent train delays,
- building a new \$13 billion rail tunnel under the Hudson River, and
- rebuilding the North River Tunnel that connects N.J. and Penn Station.