



Representative Jerrold Nadler - New York's Eighth Congressional District

Dear Friend,

Since the inauguration of President Barack Obama, both Washington and the nation have been electrified by the prospect of fresh approaches to old politics. I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the actions that I've taken recently to make this change a reality.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

I am proud to have helped to write the very first piece of legislation that President Obama signed into law, the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009*. This law overturns the Supreme Court's decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*. In that decision, Lilly Ledbetter was prevented from being compensated fairly after she had proven that her employer paid her less than her male colleagues for her entire career. The new law amends the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* to ensure that workers may challenge discrimination in compensation for as long as it lasts. I was pleased to join President Obama, my colleagues in the House and Senate, and civil rights advocates from across the country in the East Room of the White House for the signing ceremony.

Demanding Accountability from the Previous Administration

To protect our democratic and constitutional ideals, we must hold accountable those who seek to abuse the power of their political office. This is why I will continue to investigate the many abuses of power by the Bush Administration and demand

I've fought for increased funding for transit projects and want to know your opinion.

Do you support increased federal funding for mass transit?

Yes

No

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accountability for their actions. In my capacity as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, I have held hearings to bring to light the secret rendition of prisoners, the unconstitutional surveillance of American citizens and the abhorrent and unjustifiable practice of torture. This year, the Judiciary Committee has also subpoenaed Karl Rove to testify on the firings of US Attorneys and allegations of selective prosecutions by the Justice Department. I recently [appeared on Countdown with Keith Olbermann](#) to make clear that Rove's attempts to evade accountability on this matter will not be tolerated. Since my appearance on the program, Rove has agreed to submit to questioning by lawyers for the House Judiciary Committee.

In February, I introduced the *State Secret Protection Act* in order to address some of the abuses of the state secrets privilege by the Bush Administration. This bi-partisan bill recognizes that protecting sensitive information is an important responsibility for any Administration. At the same time, this responsibility must not lead to the premature and sweeping dismissal of entire cases, as we saw far too often under the previous Administration. The bill would grant authority to judges to determine which federal cases amount to threats to national security and which do not. The right to have one's day in court is fundamental to protecting basic civil liberties and it must not be sacrificed to overbroad claims of secrecy.

I have also introduced the *Midnight Rule Act* which would allow each incoming Administration to review the last minute regulatory changes made by the previous Administration on its way out. These bills will protect civil liberties and restore a vital check on the type of unrestrained executive power that was sought by the Bush Administration.

Transportation that Works

During the debate over the stimulus bill, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, I fought to increase mass transit funding. According to the Amalgamated Transit Union, every \$1 billion spent

on public transportation supports 60,000 jobs. Such funds could be used to purchase additional locomotives or hybrid buses, run longer trains, make station improvements and increase capacity. Therefore, I offered an amendment to increase transit funding by \$3 billion in order to meet the pressing needs of transit systems across the country. To pass the amendment I worked hard to build a broad coalition of support from transportation organizations, labor unions, environmental groups and business associations.

When the amendment was considered, it received bipartisan support and passed the House of Representatives. While the Senate version of the bill did not include the additional funds, we were able to secure close to \$9 billion in funding for transit and an additional \$8 billion for high speed rail. These funds will be used to help put Americans back to work and improve public transportation at the same time.

In the months ahead, I will continue to use my position as the most senior northeastern member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to increase funding for vital transportation projects – projects that put people back to work improving their communities – and I will fight for New York City and State in the upcoming reauthorization of Congress's major transportation bill.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

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