

March 5, 2025

Congressman Zinke,

Over the past six weeks, I have seen nothing but chaos from the Trump administration. I have modified this letter several times because nearly every day there is another example of poor, arbitrary decisions. It appears to me that this president is actually trying to destroy the democratic institutions we treasure and that the free world has admired. I am politically an independent. I saw combat as a Marine in Vietnam. Trump and I are the same age. I often wonder what he was doing as I held a dying Marine Lieutenant in my arms waiting for a medivac chopper that came too late. President bone spurs would later brag on the Howard Stern radio show that his Vietnam was dodging STD's! I was only 19 when I was promoted to sergeant, rare in the Marine Corps. When I got an early release to go college, I was still too young to buy a beer. I did my part- Donald Trump did not. The term "Patriot" has been used freely by Trump. The pardoning of these looters is unforgivable. His patriots were the rioters who pillaged our capitol building, killed a police officer, injured 140 more officers and was responsible for the later suicides of four more. My patriots are the VFW members I meet with each month—three of our small group died too early due to health issues related to their service.

You will never read this letter, but I hope that one of your staff will read it and think about what is happening to our nation right now. Too many Americans have short memories or were asleep in history class. We have been through isolationism, populism, discrimination, Manifest Destiny and MAGA periods before and survived, but I'm not sure that we will survive as a democracy and example to the world if the past six weeks are a sample of what is to come. The MAGA slogan reminds me too much of Hitler's, "Deutschland Uber Alles (Germany Over All)." Then there is Elon Musk's Nazi salute. We have alienated nearly all of our allies, and aligned ourselves with our enemies by voting against the UN resolution to condemn Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Then there is the disgraceful Oval Office meeting with the president of Ukraine. I'm embarrassed to be an American right now!

There is so much to cover, but several other decisions by the Trump administration confuse, disappoint, and anger me. The cruel, thoughtless way competent, loyal, hardworking federal employees are being fired is disgraceful. Using a blanket term in a form letter, "Poor performance" is demeaning and especially cruel. I can't imagine the anxiety of the fired workers and even the federal workers who remain. Our excellent U.S. Forest staff in Montana is already understaffed. Now you are going to fire firefighters just before fire season? We do need to take an objective look at the civil service system, but it needs to be done in a thoughtful, systematic way with empathy. Then there are Trump's declarations about taking Greenland from Denmark, making Canada the 51st state and Gaza a resort. I feel like I'm living in "bizzaro world" where nothing makes sense.

I suggest that you and your colleagues stand up, get some backbone, and have the courage to save our country before it is too late. Trust me, history will not be kind to those who allow our country's democracy to be destroyed by a narcissistic, selfish, cruel bully and his billionaire buddies. I would like a reply that addresses the concerns in this letter—not a form letter.

Daniel Arnsan
PO Box 789
115 Whispering Pines Lane
Superior, MT 59872-0789