

# OPINION

ANTHONY ANTONIADES | GUEST VIEWPOINT

## Trump rhetoric is disturbing

As a history teacher and the son of immigrants who survived a genocide, I find Trump’s most recent rhetoric toward the four freshman congress-women very disturbing.

The four women of color all are citizens of the U.S. - three are natural-born citizens and one naturalized.

Trump’s call for them to “go back from where they came” brings back memories of my parents’ experience but also the beginnings of every other genocide in the 20th century.

As I listen to Trump’s words and then his alternating embrace and rebuke of his follower’s chants of “send them

home”, I first think of my own family’s history.

My parents were ethnic Greeks from the Black Sea coast of Turkey. The community that settled that area is referred to as Pontic Greeks. Prior to the turn of the century, Greek communities had lived in that area for more than 3,000 years in relative peace with Turks, Kurds, Armenians, Assyrians and others.

In 1913, the government of the then Ottoman Empire decided that Turkey should be rid of minorities.

They pursued an aggressive nationalistic policy of “Turkey for Turks.” They publicly vilified and chastised minorities and

told them to go back to where they came from.

Their policies and the resulting sentiment created a hostile environment for all minorities living in Turkey at the time. As a direct result, the next decade saw the horrific deaths of over one million Armenians, 300,000 Assyrians and 350,000 Greeks - the first genocide of the modern era.

My mother was only seven at the time and she remembers being given only 24 hours to leave the only home her family had known for centuries. She was part of a large deportation of women, children, elderly and infirm Greeks, Armenians and

Assyrians on death marches exiting the country.

They had no trains, buses or airplanes; they walked from their Black Sea home to Greece, a country unfamiliar to them. My mother told stories about their journey, which took weeks.

They were hungry, beaten and ostracized along the way. One sister died during the journey. One uncle was beheaded. Those that did not leave were imprisoned, beaten, starved and even burned in public events.

My mother remembers watching an Armenian church, full of people, being locked up and set afire by the Turks.

This is my family history but one that is similarly shared with Jewish families living in Russia, Poland, and Germany in the 1930s; with Tutsis living in Rwanda in 1993-94; with Bosniacs (Bosnian Muslims) living in Croatia and Bosnia in the 1990s ... the list goes on.

Yes, history repeats itself, but as a student and teacher of history, I know that it doesn’t happen overnight.

Hate is insipid. It is a seed that is planted and nourished. It either gains strength and grows - or it is starved and withers.

This is a critical time in U.S. history. President Trump has created fertile ground. He has planted

the seeds and they are growing. We all need to recognize this dangerous nationalistic movement and speak out against it.

Those four congress-women are U.S. citizens with every right to be here. The Constitution gives them the right to their opinion - and yes, that means the right to criticize the president without being jailed or told to leave the country.

Let’s not let history repeat itself.

*(Anthony Antoniadès is a Corning resident and a retired history teacher from the Corning-Painted Post School District)*

TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

## Good for big city politics, not for family farms



Tom O'Mara

Earlier this year, it became clear that Governor Andrew Cuomo and a state Legislature under one-party Democrat control were preparing to enact far-reaching legislation that will affect New York farming for generations.

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano and I immediately called for a comprehensive series of statewide public hearings. In a letter to the governor and legislative leaders we wrote, “The misguided and misrepresented

Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act poses an extreme action at a time of already severe economic struggle for New York State farmers. Worse, the Act’s consequences would produce a nightmare of a ripple effect across local communities in every region of this state.”

Unfortunately, comprehensive public hearings never happened. The legislation was sponsored by two Democrat state legislators from Queens, New York City -- a stronghold of the Democratic Socialists of America (the largest socialist organization in the United States), the same base that socialist Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez hails from. The Democrat-controlled Legislature

approved the legislation over strong Republican opposition. Recently, Governor Cuomo held a bill-signing ceremony in a New York City newsroom, with not one farmer present, to officially enact a new law with potentially devastating consequences for family farms and rural economies.

For many observers, it is further proof that the new “Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act” is largely motivated by extreme liberal, far-left politics. Governor Cuomo stood behind a podium in the newsroom of the New York Daily News in Manhattan, a paper whose pages have long stood for far-left causes like this one, to polish his own “progressive” far-left credentials. Opponents, including the New York Farm

Bureau and Unshackle Upstate, have warned that it will have profound repercussions throughout local farm economies.

The president of the New York State Vegetable Growers Association said, “It is upsetting that state lawmakers have placed rural New York at a serious disadvantage in our ability to compete in the market place and provide economic opportunities for our employees. This new law failed to take common sense into account.”

New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher, a dairy farmer, added, “New York’s farmers have been at the table from the beginning asking for a workable solution. Common ground should have considered what farms can afford and the opportunities

our employees will lose as a result of this law.”

I debated and voted against the measure on the floor of the Senate on June 19, a debate available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvXoje1uxvo&feature=youtu.be>.

My main point was this: It is another extreme move by a radically progressive state government, under one-party control, that will cost jobs, devastate hard-working farm families, and further weaken the foundations of local upstate economies.

Mandatory overtime pay and other actions called for under the new law, including the creation of a three-member Farm Wage Board granted the authority to unilaterally change the law’s provisions (similar to the wage board that unilaterally

increased the minimum wage for fast food workers to \$15-per-hour a few years ago), will increase farm labor costs. Estimates are that the state’s already exorbitant farm labor costs will increase by nearly \$300 million or close to 20%, resulting in an across-the-board drop in net farm income of 23% and driving farmers out of business. Over the past five years, in fact, New York State has lost 20 percent of our dairy farms.

Nevertheless, Governor Cuomo went to a big city newsroom, not an upstate farm, to enact the law. That speaks volumes about the true motivation behind this extreme liberal, far-left action, and its consequences.

Good for big city, liberal socialist politics. Bad for upstate New York’s family farms.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Steuben County Department of Public Works will be holding a Public Information Meeting for the CR 119 Bridge Project over the Canisteo River in the Town of Cameron on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Steuben County Bridge Shop located at 9837 CR 119, Rathbone, New York. Representatives from Steuben County, the NYS Department of Transportation and the project consultant, C & S Engineers, will be present to provide a short presentation and accept any questions, comments and concerns regarding the project.

## The Leader



### INFORMATION STAFF BOX

**The Leader** (ISSN #10501983) The Leader is published daily at **34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830** by GateHouse Media, LLC. Periodical postage paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817. USPS code | 0586-160. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Leader, 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830.

#### The Leader Staff:

**Publisher**  
Rick Emanuel | Group Publisher  
936-4651, Ext. 303

**Classifieds** 936-4651, Ext 651  
**Retail** 936-4651, Ext 653

**Editorial**  
Shawn Vargo | Executive Editor  
936-4651, Ext. 361  
svargo@the-leader.com

#### Postal Rates:

**Steuben County**  
One month \$41.00  
Three months \$123.00  
Six months \$264.00  
One year \$492.00

**Circulation**  
Nichole Harrison  
Customer Service Manager  
936-4651, Ext. 314

**ELSEWHERE IN USA**  
One month \$51.00  
Three months \$153.00  
Six months \$306.00  
One year \$612.00

**Advertising**  
Heather Falkey | Ad Director  
936-4651, Ext. 347  
hfalkey@the-leader.com

**Business Office**  
Becky Post | Administration  
936-4651, Ext. 306  
bpost@the-leader.com

[www.the-leader.com](http://www.the-leader.com)



The price does not include additional charges up to \$3.00 for each premium edition. Premium editions are published to provide additional information and value. Rather than bill you up to \$3.00 for each premium edition, you agree that the length of your subscription will be shortened in proportion to the value of the number of premium editions published and delivered to you during your subscription period. The timing of the publication and delivery of premium editions is variable. There will be no more than 2 premium editions per month during a calendar year. Included in the delivery of the weekend Saturday-Sunday and Sunday subscription, is the delivery of the paper on Thanksgiving Day. There will be a \$3.00 surcharge for the Thanksgiving Edition. Rather than bill you up to \$3.00 for the Thanksgiving edition, you agree that the length of your subscription will be shortened in proportion to the value of the Thanksgiving edition and delivered to you during your subscription period. Subscribers have the option to have print copies held, maintain access to the digital portion of subscription with a Vacation Pack or may donate the newspaper value to our Newspaper in Education program. A fee of \$20 will be charged for all NSF checks. Print delivery available within the newspaper distribution area only. By submitting your address and/or email, you understand that you may receive promotional offers from GateHouse Media and its related companies. You may opt out of receiving any such promotional offers at any time by calling 607-936-4651. The publisher reserves the right to change subscription rates during the term of the subscription. Subscription rate changes will change the duration of the subscription. For more information or to cancel your subscription please call 607-936-4651.

### LETTERS TO EDITOR

#### Reed and climate change

To the Editor,  
I want to pose this question to the 23rd Congressional District of New York; is Tom Reed just incompetent or is he a corrupt bureaucrat?

I ask this because recently I emailed Congressman Reed asking him to take action on climate change. In his response to me Mr. Reed said “While I recognize the reality of climate change, the causes are debatable. It is important that we ensure the facts prevail”.

Here are the facts. Mr. Reed has tons of resources at his disposal. Over 13 federal agencies participated in the creation of the 4th National Climate Assessment that was released last year.

If he so chose to ask, many individuals from those agencies would come

and speak to him about their expertise. Because the fact is that carbon dioxide, which is being emitted at unprecedented rates because of humans, absorbs infrared radiation that is directly emitted from the Earth. So if we put more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect will get stronger and the planet will warm. Not getting all of the necessary information to make an informed decision as a Congressman is the definition of incompetence.

But maybe he already knows all of this. It is required by law that federal candidates disclose where their campaign contributions come from. When you look at his entire time in office, the Oil and Gas industry is the Congressman’s third biggest campaign contributor.

So maybe the Congressman already knows that human activity is warming the planet and that the cause is not debatable. Maybe he has just been bought. When the very companies who would benefit from inaction on climate change have given you over \$600,000 to get you elected, maybe you stick your head in the sand and play dumb.

This leads me back to my original question that I pose to NY-23; is Tom Reed incompetent or is he corrupt? You decide.

**Colin Evans Owego**

**Eddy’s impact is worldwide**

To the Editor,

Steuben Courier Advocate July 21 2019 contains letter to editor indicating that Duane Eddy be inducted into Steuben County Hall of Fame.

This musician’s worldwide impact cannot be quantified.

Research indicates he is alive and 81 years old.

I believe the publishing rights to his story are valuable, even if these be partial and limited. The story could be told via a film. Maybe this could be kept local.

**Terry Nardone Hammondsport**

#### Reed’s LLCs profiting from tax cuts

To the Editor,  
What — raising the debt ceiling — again?

According to “Firefighting” ( Geithner, Bernanke, Paulson), “We face unsustainable long term deficits as far as the eye can see because of major tax cuts (Trump’s) unaccompanied by spending restraint.”

Trump’s cuts never strengthened growth, as promised.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which analyzes tax plans, said we spent \$104 billion in 2018 for hurricanes and wildfires, “emergency reparations”, seemingly climate change.

According to the 2018 UN report, the next 80 years will bring a 10% GDP reduction (NYT 11/24/18) for climate change reparations. That GDP reduction is twice what we suffered during the 2008 Great Recession.

Maya MacGuiness, of the Committee for a Responsible Budget says “... this tentative deal (on the debt) may end up being the worst budget agreement in our nation’s history” (NYT 7/23/19).

The CBO stated “When outstanding debt is large, the government has less flexibility to address... crises. A large debt can compromise a country’s national security by limiting ... government’s ability to prepare for (or respond to) such a crisis.”

Real estate developers, like Trump, got loopholes from his tax cuts (In Truth A Bounty of Riches for Trump) NYT 12/1/17.

Those loopholes include “lower pass through rates... The pass through involves income from partnerships and limited liability companies (LLCs). Trump’s wealth includes more than 500 pass through LLCs.”

LLCs, under Trump’s cuts, get to deduct 20% of their income tax-free and it is interesting that Congressman Tom Reed who sat on the Republican-controlled tax-writing committee is the owner of five LLCs himself and therefore profited from Trump’s tax cuts.

Well done Congressman. Did you write those reforms solely out of economic self-interest (those LLCs) or were you swayed by the lobbyists surrounding you at the committee table?

Isn’t this a “conflict of interest” ... to our country’s detriment?

**Dorothy Pomponio Groton**