

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2020

Dear Colleague:

The 117th Congress will present a tremendous opportunity for progressive members like us to achieve our legislative and political objectives. However, our success in this new Congress will be incumbent upon our ability to elect effective and trustworthy members to key leadership positions. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur is one such member. And as proud progressives, we would like to share with you why we support Marcy for Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is already the most senior member of the Committee.

Marcy is the longest-serving woman in the House of Representatives, having been elected more than 37 years ago. She hails from the Heartland region, which has been ground zero for job loss, weathering four deep recessions since her election to Congress in 1982. Her region was devastated by rising oil prices in the early 1980s, then again in the 1990s when the North American Free Trade Agreement outsourced vast numbers of living wage jobs, followed by the 2008 Wall Street mortgage meltdown. Through it all, she has learned how to play a constructive role in economic recovery; experience we need at the helm of Appropriations for the post-COVID pandemic recovery. The economic devastation and stagnation experienced by so many in her region galvanized Marcy's priorities, which she has channeled into an enduring populist agenda, exemplified in the following two efforts.

Included in NAFTA's devastation was America's farms. In addition to her manufacturing focus, Marcy championed the struggles for small farmers. Marcy gave a voice to the American workers whose jobs were outsourced as one of NAFTA's biggest critics. Today, her stalwart advocacy continues as the USMCA, the spiritual successor to NAFTA, exports even more high-paying jobs while completely failing to protect our environment. In 1999, Marcy joined the late Congressman John Lewis in a tour of the Delmarva Peninsula to listen to the plight of farmers, plant workers, chicken catchers, and environmentalists. Marcy also introduced an amendment to help workers in their ongoing struggle to find appropriate protection under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's GIPSA rules, which was featured in *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*.



[Chickens: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver \(HBO\)](#)

Additionally, in the face of the greatest recession since the Great Depression, those who caused the banking collapse were the very ones called in by Washington to propose a solution. Marcy Kaptur criticized the bailout extensively for its failure to help Main Street and keep Americans facing foreclosure in their homes, and for this reason she opposed the Troubled Asset Relief Program passage. Marcy later urged Americans to stand up to Wall Street and squat in their homes, earning her a spotlight in Michael Moore's film, *Capitalism: A Love Story*.



[Michael Moore's 'Capitalism: A Love Story' – Rep. Kaptur, 'You Be Squatters in Your Own Home'](#)

There is no candidate better prepared to fight for progressive priorities in Congress. Marcy Kaptur has progressive populism in every ideal she has ever championed. Her efforts represent the will and desire of average Americans in their struggle to keep up with daunting economic and social forces that leave millions of people behind.

Marcy is a proven ally in Congress. Marcy embodies the pragmatism we need to practically achieve our goals while still maintaining her unapologetic progressivism, and we urge you to join us in supporting Marcy as Chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Takano'.

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rashida Tlaib'.

RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress