



Tom Horsley <[REDACTED]>

Responding to your message

1 message

Senator Marco Rubio <Do_Not_Reply@rubio.senate.gov>

Sat, Jun 27, 2020 at 9:36 AM

To: [REDACTED]

MARCO RUBIO
FLORIDA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Dear Mr. Horsley,

Thank you for taking the time to express your thoughts regarding the impeachment trial of President Trump. Understanding your views helps me to better represent Florida in the United States Senate, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution states, “[t]he House of Representatives...shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.” Article I, Section 3 states, “[t]he Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments.” On September 24, 2019, Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that the House of Representatives would open a formal impeachment inquiry against President Trump.

If a president is impeached by the House of Representatives, it is the Senate’s role to conduct a trial, presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Removal of the president requires a two-thirds vote of senators present to convict.

When the Framers decided to include impeachment in the Constitution, they understood how disruptive and traumatic it would be for the nation. This is why they decided to require the support of two-thirds of the Senate to remove a president – to serve as a guardrail against partisan impeachment and against removal of a president without broad public support.

On December 18, 2019, the House of Representatives held two separate votes on House Resolution 755, Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors. Article I, which charged the President Trump with Abuse of Power, was adopted by a vote of 230 to 197. Article II, which charged President Trump with Obstruction of Congress, was adopted by a vote of 229 to 198. The House of Representatives transmitted the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate to conduct the trial on January 15, 2020.

On January 21, 2020, the Senate agreed to the trial’s procedures, and the trial began the next day. The House Managers, in charge of the prosecution of the president, gave their opening arguments over a three-day period beginning on January 22. President Trump’s defense presentation began on January 25 and went through January 28. After two days of Senators’ questions to both the House Managers and the president’s defense team, the Senate voted 51 to 49 not to call additional witnesses or consider additional documents.

On February 5, 2020, the Senate voted on whether to convict and remove President Trump. The Senate voted to acquit President Trump, 52 to 48, on Article I, which charged President

Trump with Abuse of Power and 53 to 47 to acquit on Article II, which charged President Trump of Obstruction of Congress.

I voted not to remove President Trump on both charges because it is not in the best interest of our country. Removing a president should only be done as a last resort, and with broad bipartisan public support.

The removal of a duly elected president is Congress's most solemn constitutional power, one it has not exercised in the 243-year history of our Republic. I believe the 2020 election is the far better, and less damaging, remedy. This high bar I have set is not new for me. In 2014, I rejected calls to pursue impeachment of President Obama, noting that he "has two years left in his term," and, instead of pursuing impeachment, we should use existing tools at our disposal to "limit the amount of damage he's doing to our economy and our national security."

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as your United States Senator. I will keep your thoughts in mind as I consider this issue and continue working to ensure America remains a safe and prosperous nation.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

Each week I provide a weekly update on issues in Washington and ways in which my office can assist the people of Florida. Sign up [here](#) for updates on my legislative efforts, schedule of events throughout Florida, constituent services and much more.