

Election 2018 Q&A

U.S. House of Representatives

Libertarian Richard Brubaker and Constitution Party candidate Daniel Cummings did not provide answers to our questions.



LIZ CHENEY (R), INCUMBENT



GREG HUNTER (D)

Q: As Wyoming's only representative, how do/would you best represent the state's interests in Washington, D.C.?

As Wyoming's lone representative in the U.S. House, and a proud constitutional conservative, I have championed reform to cut taxes and regulation, expand Wyoming's energy, mining and ag industries, and fought to restore America's strength and power in the world.

As the sole U.S. representative for the great state of Wyoming, my 2019 voting record will reflect and protect the interests of Wyoming's people, economy, resources and public lands. Wyoming voices are not being heard in Congress. The bills that have been crafted and supported by our current representative devalue the consensus of Wyoming voices. I will only put forth and support bills that value Wyoming's priorities over out-of-state donors and the D.C. agenda.

Q: How would you work to end the partisanship and gridlock in Washington, D.C.?

Wyoming's representative in Congress must have a track record of educating people to gain support for our issues. In Congress, I have successfully built and led national coalitions to support policies central to our way of life. I also worked with Democrats to introduce legislation delisting the gray wolf.

I believe that if we talk to each other, we have more in common than we do differences. As congressman, I can help find consensus to move the nation forward. We have to remember we are all Americans and the world is getting better, it just seems that it is not because of social media and the constant barrage of negativity from the cable news.

Q: Should Wyoming's federal lands be opened up for more energy development? How do you balance the needs of the mineral and logging industries with tourism, hunters, etc.?

Wyoming's fossil fuels are critical to our economy and a national treasure. We have made progress in ensuring we can access these resources and protect our environment. Local citizens are the best stewards of our lands, so I will continue to reduce federal overreach and return authority to local communities.

We need energy. We also need less pollution. Federal lands are the reason people come to Wyoming. I have the requisite experience to navigate these issues to achieve a balance in the approach to obtaining the energy that drives our state's budget. One of my first bills would be to produce a comprehensive energy plan that addresses extraction processes. This can be achieved without damaging the necessary requirements for our wildlife corridors and still allowing recreationists access to their cherished lands.

Q: What tangible steps would you take to expand the world market for Wyoming coal? Is there a realistic chance that you can help open up West Coast ports for exporting it?

It's in America's economic and national security interest to ensure our allies have access to our fossil fuels. As long as radical environmentalists and states build unreasonable export obstacles, the federal government must examine infrastructure options, including military installations, capable of expanding access to world markets for Wyoming coal.

Republican and Democratic states have weaponized their environmental departments to achieve political motives. Fracking and oil production have impacted water quality in mainly Republican states, while Democratic states have used climate change to stop Wyoming's coal from being exported. Both of these responses have a detrimental effect. As congressman, I will work with Democratic counterparts in Washington to convince them that these tactics cost states money and devalue environmental efforts.

Q: Should the federal government eliminate all subsidies for energy production, both for fossil fuels and renewable energy? Why or why not?

We must have a level playing field for all forms of energy production. During the Obama administration, subsidies were used to pick favorites and encourage uneconomic activity. Wyoming's energy industry and our workers can compete with anyone when granted fair access and a level playing field inside free markets.

I am against subsidies for any corporate endeavor, but I am a big proponent of taxing things (i.e. cigarettes) based on potential detriment to the environment or public health. I support taxing all sources of energy based on those principles as each source has potential long-term impacts to the planet and its people. We should use independent bodies to evaluate impacts so taxes may be raised or lowered as new data is collected.

Q: What would you do to mitigate potential impacts of a trade war on the state's agriculture industry?

President Trump's trade policies are producing results and securing agreements – recently with Mexico and Canada – that will open markets and better terms for exports, including Wyoming products. I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the administration to ensure the best deal possible for Wyoming exports.

Long-term planning has not been a hallmark of congressional actions or the White House. First and foremost, it would have been prudent to evaluate all the potential impacted industries and discuss the mitigation steps for each prior to entering a trade war. With that said, elections have consequences. Wyoming supported Trump and Cheney, and they acted without regard to the potential outcomes. The only way to solve this issue is for voters to elect responsible and thoughtful leaders who think about long-term issues.

Q: What do you think is the best way to communicate with your constituents? How important are town hall meetings?

When Congress is in recess, I return home to Wyoming to meet face to face with constituents from across our state. I am committed to responsiveness with a strong network of regional offices, our constituent newsletter and social media content that shares news and addresses the concerns of citizens across our state.

I have enjoyed discussing issues with people all across the state and will maintain these relationships in D.C. I enjoy interacting with those from across the political spectrum. It gives the voter a voice and provides valuable insight into constituents' views. I would conduct town hall events to discuss issues in an exchange-style setting. Our current representative participated in a single debate, but will meet with constituents as long as a donation is involved. The people of Wyoming deserve better.