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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Claudia Tenney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2375 Rochester Road, Suite 250  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

**Subject: The Importance of Libraries and IMLS Funding**

Dear Representative Tenney,

Thank you for your response regarding the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and its review of federal spending, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). I appreciate the opportunity to engage in this discussion, as I share your concern for responsible government spending and fiscal accountability.

However, I am deeply concerned that the effort to eliminate IMLS funding would significantly harm the public's access to information and learning resources. Libraries are not partisan institutions; they are essential pillars of intellectual freedom, a fundamental value in our democracy. Regardless of DOGE's broader mission, reducing or eliminating support for libraries would be an unacceptable loss for communities across the country.

Public libraries ensure that all citizens—regardless of background, income level, or political affiliation—have access to books, technology, and educational programs. They serve as community hubs for job seekers, small businesses, students, and lifelong learners. IMLS funding directly supports these efforts, particularly in rural and underserved areas where alternative resources are limited.

Reviewing federal expenditures is a reasonable and necessary function of government, but indiscriminately cutting vital programs like IMLS will not solve our fiscal challenges. Instead, it will deprive Americans of their right to access information, hampering innovation, education, and civic engagement. As misinformation and disinformation are growing concerns in our sociopolitical landscape, libraries play a critical role in providing unbiased, fact-based resources.

I understand that you have previously expressed skepticism about the role of libraries in your statements to the *Wayne County Times*. However, I urge you to consider the vital

services they provide to your constituents—services that transcend political divisions and directly contribute to informed, engaged communities.

Libraries do not take political sides; we remain steadfast in our commitment to neutrality, intellectual freedom, and the dissemination of knowledge to all who seek it. As your constituent, I respectfully request that you recognize the importance of federal library funding and advocate for its continuation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome further discussion on this matter and hope that you will stand with the many citizens who rely on their public libraries every day.

Sincerely,

Ronald Kirsop  
Executive Director  
OWWL Library System

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**Response from Congresswoman Claudia Tenney**

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**From :** Rep. Claudia Tenney  
<reptenney@mail15.housecommunications.gov>

Fri, Mar 28, 2025 09:52 PM

**Subject :** Response from Congresswoman Claudia Tenney

**To :** Ronald Kirsop <rkirsop@owwl.org>

**Reply To :** Rep. Claudia Tenney  
<reptenney@mail15.housecommunications.gov>



# CLAUDIA TENNEY

## Representing the 24th District of New York

Dear Mr. Kirsop,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Department of Government Efficiency. I appreciate your views on this matter and always welcome the opportunity to respond to your concerns. It's a privilege to represent you in Congress, where I will continue to be a compassionate and tenacious advocate for New York's 24th Congressional District.

The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) was created under President Donald Trump through an Executive Order on January 20, 2025, as part of one of his Day 1 priorities. The creation of this Department could not have come at a more critical time for our country. The United States faces a serious fiscal challenge, and I have consistently stated that we must take our debt problems seriously. With over \$36 trillion of national debt and counting, we cannot continue to spend excessively while hardworking families suffer. Our priority should be saving taxpayer dollars and ensuring funding is properly utilized. Responsible spending reductions are essential to taking control of the deficit while maintaining essential services. DOGE's work to modernize government operations, streamline bureaucracy, and identify cost-saving opportunities is undoubtedly a step in the right direction.

Since its creation, DOGE has conducted necessary investigations into waste, fraud, and government abuse by several agencies. A few of the egregious misuses of taxpayer dollars DOGE has uncovered include: \$70,000 for production of a "DEI musical" in Ireland; \$2.5 million for electric vehicles for Vietnam; \$47,000 for a "transgender opera" in Colombia; \$32,000 for a "transgender comic book" in Peru; \$2 million for sex changes and "LGBT activism" in Guatemala; and \$6 million to fund tourism in Egypt. These examples are a waste of taxpayer dollars not in line with American values. I appreciate DOGE's vigilant efforts to uncover and end the waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer funds.

House Republicans are laser-focused on providing leadership, restoring transparency and responsible government, and achieving real results for the American people. That is why I am an original member of the DOGE Caucus, which brings Members together to implement structural reforms that promote transparency, accountability, and meaningful, lasting spending cuts in our government to better serve the American people. You may also be interested to know that even

before DOGE's creation, I have consistently voted to end wasteful spending. During the 118th Congress, I voted for an amendment to H.R. 8771, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2025 that would defund the USAID. Additionally, I cosponsored and voted for an amendment to H.R. 8774, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025, that would defund DEI programs within all military branches.

Finally, to bring the ideas of the DOGE Caucus into tangible legislation, I sponsored a package of bills to reform the federal government, the DOGE Acts, with Senator Marsha Blackburn. These four bills embody the priorities outlined by President Trump, serving as a bold first step in advancing the Administration's 'Make America Efficient Again' agenda. H.R. 199, the Implementing DOGE Act, would limit increases in non-security discretionary appropriations to one percent. This bill will help us get control of our deficit and national debt and require Congress to get serious about addressing our Nation's spending problem. H.R. 200, the Federal Freeze Act, would address out-of-control spending and save taxpayer dollars by implementing a one-year freeze on new hiring while exempting certain employees deemed necessary to serve the interests of law enforcement, national security, public safety, and public health services. H.R. 201, the Federal Employee Performance and Accountability Act, would establish a performance-based pay structure that bolsters government efficiency by incentivizing high performance among federal employees, exempting agencies deemed necessary for national security or public safety. Finally, H.R. 202, the Commission to Relocate the Federal Bureaucracy Act, would decentralize the power held by unelected bureaucrats in Washington D.C. by establishing a plan to relocate non-national security related agencies to states across the country.

I appreciate you reaching out to share your thoughts about DOGE. Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey once said, "Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate." I am always willing to listen to different opinions because coming together to talk about the issues is a key part of our self-governing Constitutional Republic.

Thank you again for contacting me. To stay up to date on my work in Washington and across New York's 24th District, please sign up for my weekly e-newsletter [here](#) and be sure to follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). I also encourage you to visit my website at <https://tenney.house.gov/> to learn more about the full range of services my office can provide you. I am honored to explain every vote I cast in Congress so you always know where I stand. You can read my vote explanations [here](#).

Sincerely,



**Rep. Claudia Tenney**  
**Member of Congress**

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### Contact Me

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3/31/25, 12:57 PM

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