

## **OPENING REMARKS TTRR 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting – July 26, 2020**

**First Welcome to the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of Team TO Resist + Rise!  
And happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Americans with Disabilities Act – I remember how we celebrated in 1990 when it passed! The coalition that won it included the gay and lesbian community and people with HIV/AIDS and we were key to its passage, along with folks who had worked on it for many many years.**

**Secondly, I want to thank ALL OF YOU – who were Hosts and donors and volunteers to MAKING WAVES FOR DEMOCRACY July 4<sup>th</sup> – our spectacular event that raised over \$720,000 for Joe Biden’s youth outreach program. I live to prove grassroots fundraising raises REAL MONEY. Our 6 events over 4 years have raised \$1.5 million from nearly 10,000 donations brought in by 447 Hosts. You’ve done that! WE’VE DONE THAT!**

**Now -- 3 of those events have been for Sea Change, the organizing PAC of Rep Karen Bass. I’m just saying – she’s now on the short list for VP – and regulars know we love her – I’ve been privy to some of the inside baseball on her VP candidacy – which it will not surprise you was NOT her idea – she has been promoted by a national network of progressives who believe she has it all to tackle the 3 intertwined crises of today: economic, healthcare, and systemic racism – Rep Bass is a former community organizer, physician assistant and healthcare leader with literally decades work in the Coalition Against Police Abuse in South LA AND who helped CA navigate the Great Recession in her role as Speaker of the Assembly.**

**Anyway, she’s got a shot at it. I’m crossing my fingers!**

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**This election is crucial. TODAY IS THE 100-day COUNTDOWN! That’s our main theme today – keep our pedal on the metal for 100 days!**

**Professor Tim Snyder – ON TYRANNY author -- said on Rachel**

**Maddow this week that the goons Trump sent in to Portland, Oregon are a dry run for the election. The FIRE DEVIL (Love those Germans' nickname for the orange fascist – and they sure know from goons!) will try to send his goons to every polling station in November. Watch this space, as Rachel says – if we need to we'll rise up as a WALL OF VOTER FREEDOM millions strong....we'll organize to free the vote in Arizona. We'll keep you posted.**

**I want to share that I'm hopeful about November – not just because the good polling and the waves and waves of protest against racism by – well – everyone - but led by Black Lives Matter – I LOVE all those young people of all colors taking the streets and their power in the most sustained national progressive protest in a generation....and they're registering voters on the streets!! LOVE IT.**

**But there's a moment in an intense struggle when you're making good and necessary trouble -- when you feel it IN YOUR BONES that you'll win. Even as your head is getting cracked by cops.**

**For me it was Portland. After months of non-stop protest across the country — when that Fire Devil sent his goons in to one of the whitest cities in America – and meanwhile tweeted at suburban white women to gain them back in the fold to SUPPORT his action against Black Lives Matter – BUT the people of Portland said NO WAY.**

**Now I hear the Wall of Moms was started by a Black mom, but it is the most whitebread suburban protest ever – those Moms in yellow shirts w bicycle helmets – first 1 then 100 then 300, then 1000. Then the leafblowing Dads, and then the Wall of Vets....**

**During the AIDS crisis there was a moment after the police arrested us and cracked a few heads when our fierce determination erupted into to something positive – even the chants turned lighthearted. I've seen it many times in the Remember?**

**“BAD COP.... NO DONUT!!” or...**

**“The Gloves don’t match the shoes....The gloves don’t match the shoes”. or**

**When I saw those thousands of candles light up the dark, with those people’s hands in the air, swaying and singing together, I knew the Fire Devil lost his bet. Suburban white women are with us, not him. And I knew we’d win.**

**If we keep building that coalition, keep being creative and loving WE WILL WIN.**

**OUR WALL OF RESISTANCE, OUR TSUNAMI OF ORGANIZING IS BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN ANY GOONS! Any voter suppression.**

**Xxxxxx**