# STEFANIK SOLD OUT ON TRUMP’S TARIFFS AND DOGE CUTS TO CRUCIAL PROGRAMS THAT NEW YORKERS RELIED ON

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| **KEY POINTS**  **STEFANIK SOLD OUT HER DISTRICT ON TARIFFS, CALLING THEM A “TAX” DURING TRUMP’S FIRST TERM BUT CELEBRATING THEM IN 2025**   * In 2025, Stefanik was a cheerleader for Trump’s tariffs, describing them as “a game-changer.” * During Trump’s first term, Stefanik was “very opposed” to his tariffs, calling them “very punitive” and a “tax.” Stefanik specifically cited the harm to farmers as a reason for opposing Trump’s tariffs and noted that they would “increase costs on consumers.”   + 2018: Stefanik: “I think it’s our job as Congress to make sure that this administration doesn’t bring us towards a trade war.”   + Stefanik opposed Trump’s tariffs on Canada and other allies, arguing that they should be more focused on China. * Trump’s tariffs were bad for New York businesses and farmers who relied on trade with Canada. There was $42 billion in trade between New York state and Canada annually, supporting an estimated 600,000 jobs.   + Syracuse Post-Standard: “New York’s economy could take a bigger hit from U.S. and Canadian tariffs than much of the rest of the United States.”   + Syracuse Post-Standard: “New York farmers are especially vulnerable to the 25% tariffs that President Donald Trump announced.”   + NY1: More tariffs could hit NYC small businesses hard, economic reporter warns.”   **STEFANIK BACKED DOGE, CALLING IT “COMMON SENSE” AND DESCRIBING ELON MUSK AS A VISIONARY, EVEN AS IT GUTTED CRUCIAL PROGRAMS AND FIRED NEW YORKERS**   * Stefanik praised the creation of DOGE, saying it was “common sense” and that she was looking forward to seeing what Elon Musk did at DOGE. Stefanik also praised Musk as a “visionary.” * DOGE fired at least 811 workers in New York. * DOGE slashed funding for the Department of Education, including freezing $464 million for New York public schools. During Trump’s first term, Stefanik opposed cuts to the Department of Education.   + DOGE also slashed funding for programs for students with disabilities, the Office of Federal Student Aid and the Department of Education’s research arm. * DOGE decimated the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provided home heating assistance to 6 million families including 1.8 million New Yorkers. During Trump’s first term Stefanik defended LIHEAP from cuts. * DOGE slashed EPA funding, which Stefanik had previously supported when Trump tried to cut it during his first term. * DOGE slashed NIH funding, impacting trials for childhood cancer treatments and dementia. From 2015 to 2018, Stefanik had defended the NIH, calling for investments in its research and voting to expand its budget.   **TRUMP PROPOSED CUTTING PROGRAMS THAT STEFANIK DEFENDED IN HIS FIRST TERM**   * Despite Stefanik’s past defense of the Essential Air Services Program (EAS), the Trump administration proposed cutting the program’s budget by half. The Plattsburgh airport, in Stefanik’s district, relied on the EAS program, which brought additional travelers in and raised revenue for Clinton County. * Despite Stefanik’s past defense of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Trump administration proposed eliminating it entirely. * Despite Stefanik’s past defense of the State Department, the Trump administration proposed slashing its budget by nearly 50% and firing thousands of staff. |

## STEFANIK SOLD OUT HER DISTRICT ON TARIFFS, CALLING THEM A “TAX” DURING TRUMP’S FIRST TERM BUT CELEBRATING THEM IN 2025

### DURING TRUMP’S FIRST TERM, STEFANIK WAS “VERY OPPOSED” TO HIS TARIFFS, CALLING THEM “VERY PUNITIVE” AND A “TAX”

#### STEFANIK WAS VERY OPPOSED TO TRUMP’S TARIFFS, SAYING THAT THEY WERE A TAX THAT HURT FARMERS

**2019: Stefanik Split With Trump On Tariffs, Saying That She Viewed Them As A Tax And That They Hurt Farmers.** “Stefanik has split with President Donald Trump on the issue of trade tariffs that she believes hurt farmers. Peck, himself a dairy farmer, said farmers understand Trump's ‘Art of the Deal’ strategy of using tariffs to get a better trade deal with China, but tariffs also hurt farmers. ‘We need to come to some resolution. It has affected the farmers. The markets of China are very important to American farmers, but we understand politics,’ he said. ‘[Trump] needs to do what needs to be done in a manner that is responsive, and gets what we need, but as quickly as possible.’ Stefanik said she opposes tariffs, which she views as a tax, and bad for farmers. ‘Tariffs have a negative effect on all producers here,’ she said. ‘I am a supporter of [the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement]. I think we need to get that across the finish line as soon as possible. That's the updated NAFTA and expands our opportunity to get our products into Canada, particularly dairy. I'm hopeful [House] Speaker Pelosi will get that to the house floor as soon as possible,’ she said.” [Schenectady Daily Gazette, [7/27/19](https://www.dailygazette.com/news/stefanik-discusses-agriculture-at-saratoga-county-fair-stop/article_318945b4-5f94-58c7-9c8b-97709c103ecc.html)]

**2018: Stefanik Said She Was “Very Opposed” To Trump’s Tariffs, Saying That The U.S. Was “Experiencing The Consequences Of A Trade War.”** “Stefanik told WWNY-TV that the administration’s new tariffs are having a negative impact on agriculture and farmers. ‘I think, unfortunately, we are experiencing the consequences of a trade war,’ Stefanik said. ‘I view tariffs as a form of taxation. I've been very opposed to the president's tariffs.’” [NCPR, [8/10/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36791/20180810/timeline-rep-stefanik-often-sharply-critical-of-trump-but-backs-his-agenda)]

**2018: Stefanik: “I Believe Tariffs Are A Form Of Taxation.”** “MARTHA FOLEY: President Trump is considering tariffs on auto imports from Canada now that would be in addition to levies already imposed on steel and aluminum. Add in his rhetoric after last weekend's G7 economic meeting in Quebec City calling the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau weak and dishonest, what do you think of the president's approach here to Canada? Rep. Elise Stefanik: Well, I represent a district that is very reliant on trade with Canada. And it's a strength of our local economy, if you think about how 20% of the work force in Clinton County, for example, is tied to that cross-border U.S.— Canadian trading relationship. So I'm concerned with the rhetoric; I think it was counterproductive. And I believe tariffs are a form of taxation. And I do not think it is strong economic policy to enter into a trade war with an important ally and economic partner like Canada. So this is an area where I disagree with the president's rhetoric. I do think, as we are seeking to modernize NAFTA, there are important market access issues for dairy products for example, that would help our dairy farmers in the North Country if they had greater access to the Canadian markets. So I do support the president trying to modernize and improve NAFTA, but unfortunately I've just been concerned with his rhetoric.” [NCPR, [6/13/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36407/20180613/stefanik-disappointed-with-trump-rhetoric-on-trudeau-trade-with-canada)]

#### 2018: STEFANIK WORRIED THAT TARIFFS WOULD “INCREASE COSTS ON CONSUMERS” AND “INCENTIVIZE CANADIAN FIRMS IN OUR DISTRICT TO LEAVE”

**2018: After Trump Imposed Aluminum And Steel Tariffs, Stefanik Expressed Concerns That The Tariffs Would “Increase Costs On Consumers” And Could “Incentivize Canadian Firms In Our District To Leave.”** “TARIFFS President Donald J. Trump signed orders on Thursday placing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, despite domestic and international objections and the threat of a trade war. The orders exempt Canada and Mexico and raise import levies by 25 percent for steel and 10 percent for aluminum. Before this happened, Stefanik was asked about the tariffs, saying she believes they are necessary because China is dumping steel and the U.S. needs to work with European allies to make sure the country's ability to export continues to grow. A caller named Stephen was concerned for Novelis, an aluminum producer in Oswego that supplies aluminum used in the Ford F-150 pickup truck. He said 75 percent of their source material comes from Canada and that they could go out of business if the price of importing the metal rose. ‘I have concerns that this tariff will increase costs on consumers and that it potentially invites retaliation from other countries, which will hurt our ability to export,’ Stefanik said. ‘Particularly as a northern border district, this could incentivize Canadian firms in our district to leave.” [Massena Daily Courier-Observer, 3/10/18]

#### 2018: STEFANIK: “I THINK IT’S OUR JOB AS CONGRESS TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN’T BRING US TOWARDS A TRADE WAR”

**Stefanik: “I Think It’s Our Job As Congress To Make Sure That This Administration Doesn’t Bring Us Towards A Trade War.”** “ES: I think it’s our job as Congress to make sure that this administration doesn’t bring us towards a trade war. I think that the administration needs to continue hearing from members like myself, members on the Ways and Means Committee who have jurisdiction over trade, on the importance of these economic partnerships with Canada. Again, we can improve NAFTA; it is in need for updating, but we need to stay focused on that so it’s a net positive instead of going toward a trade war.” [NCPR, [6/13/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36407/20180613/stefanik-disappointed-with-trump-rhetoric-on-trudeau-trade-with-canada)]

#### STEFANIK SAID SHE OPPOSED TRUMP’S TARIFFS ON CANADA AND OTHER ALLIES, SAYING THAT THEY WERE “VERY PUNITIVE”

**July 2018: Stefanik Said She Opposed Trump’s Trade War With Canada And Other American Allies.** “Congresswoman Elise Stefanik says she's against President Trump's trade war with Canada and other U.S. allies. The Republican lawmaker spoke in Plattsburgh Friday. ‘I am concerned about the punitive impact of tariffs because of this ongoing trade war,’ Stefanik said. ‘When it comes to targeting China, let's target China and not our important allies and trading partners like Canada, like our allies in Europe.’” [NCPR, [7/9/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36566/20180709/stefanik-talks-tariffs-congressional-race-in-plattsburgh)]

**July 2018: Stefanik On Trump’s Trade War With Canada: “I Am Concerned About The Punitive Impact Of Tariffs Because Of This Ongoing Trade War.”** “Congresswoman Elise Stefanik says she's against President Trump's trade war with Canada and other U.S. allies. The Republican lawmaker spoke in Plattsburgh Friday. ‘I am concerned about the punitive impact of tariffs because of this ongoing trade war,’ Stefanik said. ‘When it comes to targeting China, let's target China and not our important allies and trading partners like Canada, like our allies in Europe.’” [NCPR, [7/9/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36566/20180709/stefanik-talks-tariffs-congressional-race-in-plattsburgh)]

**2018: Stefanik Joined A Bipartisan Letter Urging The Commerce Secretary And International Trade Commission Chair To Reconsider Tariffs On Canadian Paper, Warning They Would Unfairly Impact Local Newspapers.** "I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues on a letter urging @SecretaryRoss and Int'l Trade Commission Chairman Rhonda Schmidtlein to reconsider tariffs on Canadian paper that would unfairly impact newspapers in our district." [X, @RepStefanik, [6/15/18](https://x.com/RepStefanik/status/1007627687886663680)]

A screenshot of a social media post

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[X, @RepStefanik, [6/15/18](https://x.com/RepStefanik/status/1007627687886663680)]

**HEADLINE: “Stefanik Disappointed With Trump Rhetoric On Trudeau, Trade With Canada.”** [NCPR, [6/13/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36407/20180613/stefanik-disappointed-with-trump-rhetoric-on-trudeau-trade-with-canada)]

**2018: Stefanik: “I Do Not Think It Is Strong Economic Policy To Enter Into A Trade War With An Important Ally And Economic Partner Like Canada.”** “MARTHA FOLEY: President Trump is considering tariffs on auto imports from Canada now that would be in addition to levies already imposed on steel and aluminum. Add in his rhetoric after last weekend's G7 economic meeting in Quebec City calling the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau weak and dishonest, what do you think of the president's approach here to Canada? Rep. Elise Stefanik: Well, I represent a district that is very reliant on trade with Canada. And it's a strength of our local economy, if you think about how 20% of the work force in Clinton County, for example, is tied to that cross-border U.S.— Canadian trading relationship. So I'm concerned with the rhetoric; I think it was counterproductive. And I believe tariffs are a form of taxation. And I do not think it is strong economic policy to enter into a trade war with an important ally and economic partner like Canada. So this is an area where I disagree with the president's rhetoric. I do think, as we are seeking to modernize NAFTA, there are important market access issues for dairy products for example, that would help our dairy farmers in the North Country if they had greater access to the Canadian markets. So I do support the president trying to modernize and improve NAFTA, but unfortunately I've just been concerned with his rhetoric.” [NCPR, [6/13/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36407/20180613/stefanik-disappointed-with-trump-rhetoric-on-trudeau-trade-with-canada)]

**2018: Stefanik Opposed Aluminum And Steel Tariffs On Mexico, Canada And The EU.** “U.S. Rep. Elise M. Stefanik sent out a statement Thursday condemning the Trump administration's imposition of tariffs on metals imported from the United States' closest neighbors and allies. […] ‘I strongly oppose these tariffs on our nation's closest economic partner, Canada,’ reads the statement from Stefanik, who had previously announced her opposition to the tariffs. ‘If President Trump wants to target Chinese steel dumping, he should target tariffs at China and not at our friends to the North. The shared production of goods by the U.S. and Canada actually makes our goods more competitive in global markets against China and others.’ ‘Congresswoman Stefanik does not support these added tariffs, including for the EU and Mexico,’ spokesman Tom Flanagin said in an email. ‘She views these tariffs as added taxes that will be passed on to consumers.” [Malone Telegram, 6/1/18]

##### STEFANIK URGED THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO FOCUS THE TARIFFS ON CHINA INSTEAD OF AMERICAN ALLIES

**July 2018: Stefanik Argued For The Administration To Focus On Targeting China Instead Of U.S. Allies In The Ongoing Trade War.** “Congresswoman Elise Stefanik says she's against President Trump's trade war with Canada and other U.S. allies. The Republican lawmaker spoke in Plattsburgh Friday. ‘I am concerned about the punitive impact of tariffs because of this ongoing trade war,’ Stefanik said. ‘When it comes to targeting China, let's target China and not our important allies and trading partners like Canada, like our allies in Europe.’” [NCPR, [7/9/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36566/20180709/stefanik-talks-tariffs-congressional-race-in-plattsburgh)]

**Stefanik On Trump’s Tariffs On Canada: “When It Comes To His Announcement Regarding Aluminum And Steel Tariffs, If He Wants To Target China He Should Really Focus Those Tariffs Specifically On China And Not Involve Canada.”** “MF: Since you are unhappy with the direction of the White House's trade policy on NAFTA and tariffs, what are you doing about that? ES: We are working with a coalition of members of Congress who have been in constant communication with the administration underscoring the importance of our strong trading relationship with Canada. I met with the President and a group of members a few months ago regarding trade, highlighting the importance of agriculture, for example, and our abilities to export our products. Highlighting the importance of modernizing NAFTA and not ripping it up. I also think when it comes to his announcement regarding aluminum and steel tariffs, if he wants to target China he should really focus those tariffs specifically on China and not involve Canada, for example.” [NCPR, [6/13/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36407/20180613/stefanik-disappointed-with-trump-rhetoric-on-trudeau-trade-with-canada)]

**2018: Prior To Trump Imposing Aluminum And Steel Tariffs, Stefanik Said She Supported Imposing Aluminum And Steel Tariffs On China.** “TARIFFS President Donald J. Trump signed orders on Thursday placing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, despite domestic and international objections and the threat of a trade war. The orders exempt Canada and Mexico and raise import levies by 25 percent for steel and 10 percent for aluminum. Before this happened, Stefanik was asked about the tariffs, saying she believes they are necessary because China is dumping steel and the U.S. needs to work with European allies to make sure the country's ability to export continues to grow. A caller named Stephen was concerned for Novelis, an aluminum producer in Oswego that supplies aluminum used in the Ford F-150 pickup truck. He said 75 percent of their source material comes from Canada and that they could go out of business if the price of importing the metal rose. ‘I have concerns that this tariff will increase costs on consumers and that it potentially invites retaliation from other countries, which will hurt our ability to export,’ Stefanik said. ‘Particularly as a northern border district, this could incentivize Canadian firms in our district to leave.” [Massena Daily Courier-Observer, 3/10/18]

### 2025: STEFANIK WAS A CHEERLEADER FOR TRUMP’S TARIFFS

**May 2025: Stefanik Said That She Supported Trump’s Tariffs**. STEFANIK: “Well, I support the President's tariff approach when it comes to making sure that we have fair trade deals that are promoting American farmers, American small businesses and American manufacturers. Look at the USMCA. The Canadians have not abided by that trade agreement on dairy issues in particular that are important for this region. So the President has delivered the agreement with the US UK.” [YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 1:15, [5/16/25](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx5r-YV3V2o)] (VIDEO)

**Stefanik Said, “For Decades, Foreign Nations Exploited America With Lopsided Trade Deals—Those Days Are Done” And Praised “Trump’s Tariffs & Reciprocal Trade Vision” As “A Game-Changer.”** "For decades, foreign nations exploited America with lopsided trade deals—those days are DONE. President Trump’s tariffs &amp; reciprocal trade vision are a game-changer for American producers, including in Upstate New York, as jobs flood back home &amp; markets open worldwide. 🇺🇸" [X, @EliseStefanik, [4/11/25](https://x.com/EliseStefanik/status/1910694049499017333)]

**A screenshot of a social media post

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

[X, @EliseStefanik, [4/11/25](https://x.com/EliseStefanik/status/1910694049499017333)]

**Stefanik Said She Supported “Trump’s America First Tariffs” And Said That “We Will Not Allow Other Countries To Take Advantage Of Us.”** "My Statement on President Trump’s America First Tariffs: I strongly support President Trump’s America First economic policies to strengthen American manufacturing and create millions of American jobs. For too long, Americans have suffered under unfair trade practices putting America Last. We will not allow other countries to take advantage of us and we must put America and the American worker first." [X, @EliseStefanik, [4/2/25](https://x.com/EliseStefanik/status/1907529451115786304)]

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### TRUMP’S TARIFFS WERE BAD FOR NEW YORK BUSINESSES AND FARMERS WHO RELIED ON TRADE WITH CANADA

**HEADLINE: “N.Y. Businesses Brace For Impacts Of U.S. Tariffs.”** [Spectrum News, [8/12/25](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/08/12/n-y--businesses-brace-for-impacts-of-u-s--tariffs)]

**Spectrum News: “Businesses In New York Will Likely Have A Chaotic Few Months As Companies Gauge The Consequences Of Federal Tariffs.”** “Businesses in New York state will likely have a chaotic few months as companies gauge the consequences of federal tariffs that took effect in the last week. President Donald Trump made tariffs a central fixture of the economic strategy that helped him get elected last fall, and maintains they'll offset national trade deficits. Business leaders on Tuesday said it will be difficult for New York companies to prepare for import taxes of 10% or more on goods from over 60 countries and the European Union and how it will impact the Empire State. ‘Where folks are taking advantage of American businesses [and] consumers in terms of their trade practices, let's go after them, let's do what we can to level that playing field,’ Mike Elmendorf, president & CEO of the Associated General Contractors of New York State, told Spectrum News 1. ‘But that really is the type of project that calls for a sharp shooter, not a shotgun. And I think we’ve been dealing with a shotgun approach here.’ Elmendorf said contractors in the state are feeling the burden of new tariffs put in place by Trump's administration. Higher import taxes, like 35% on Canada, make it harder to estimate the cost, or scope, of construction projects. Elmendorf said it’s throwing the industry into uncertainty.” [Spectrum News, [8/12/25](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/08/12/n-y--businesses-brace-for-impacts-of-u-s--tariffs)]

**Associated General Contractors Of New York State CEO: Trump’s Tariffs Were Throwing The Construction Industry Into Uncertainty.** “Businesses in New York state will likely have a chaotic few months as companies gauge the consequences of federal tariffs that took effect in the last week. President Donald Trump made tariffs a central fixture of the economic strategy that helped him get elected last fall, and maintains they'll offset national trade deficits. Business leaders on Tuesday said it will be difficult for New York companies to prepare for import taxes of 10% or more on goods from over 60 countries and the European Union and how it will impact the Empire State. ‘Where folks are taking advantage of American businesses [and] consumers in terms of their trade practices, let's go after them, let's do what we can to level that playing field,’ Mike Elmendorf, president & CEO of the Associated General Contractors of New York State, told Spectrum News 1. ‘But that really is the type of project that calls for a sharp shooter, not a shotgun. And I think we’ve been dealing with a shotgun approach here.’ Elmendorf said contractors in the state are feeling the burden of new tariffs put in place by Trump's administration. Higher import taxes, like 35% on Canada, make it harder to estimate the cost, or scope, of construction projects. Elmendorf said it’s throwing the industry into uncertainty.” [Spectrum News, [8/12/25](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/08/12/n-y--businesses-brace-for-impacts-of-u-s--tariffs)]

**HEADLINE: “When Trump’s Tariffs Wound Canada, Upstate NY Bleeds, Too: Cars, Farms, Beer.”** [Syracuse Post-Standard, Glenn Coin Column, [4/1/25](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/03/when-trumps-tariffs-wound-canada-upstate-ny-bleeds-too-cars-farms-beer.html)]

**Syracuse Post-Standard: “No Country Is More Important To New York Growers And Manufacturers Than Canada.”** “No country is more important to New York growers and manufacturers than Canada. Our northern neighbor is the No. 1 export market for New York. Just over half of the state’s exported agricultural products head north. More than $1 of every $8 of goods New York exports goes to Canada. Exports to Canada are double that of New York’s next-biggest trading partner. On the flip side, New York ranks No. 5 among U.S. states for receiving Canada’s exports. New York imports more goods from Canada than any other country besides China. It’s a trade partnership that adds up to a $42 billion exchange each year, an economic trade engine bigger than Vermont’s GDP. It provides an estimated 600,000 jobs in both places in dozens of industries.” [Syracuse Post-Standard, Glenn Coin Column, [4/1/25](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/03/when-trumps-tariffs-wound-canada-upstate-ny-bleeds-too-cars-farms-beer.html)]

* **There Was $42 Billion In Annual Trade Between New York State And Canada.** “No country is more important to New York growers and manufacturers than Canada. Our northern neighbor is the No. 1 export market for New York. Just over half of the state’s exported agricultural products head north. More than $1 of every $8 of goods New York exports goes to Canada. Exports to Canada are double that of New York’s next-biggest trading partner. On the flip side, New York ranks No. 5 among U.S. states for receiving Canada’s exports. New York imports more goods from Canada than any other country besides China. It’s a trade partnership that adds up to a $42 billion exchange each year, an economic trade engine bigger than Vermont’s GDP. It provides an estimated 600,000 jobs in both places in dozens of industries.” [Syracuse Post-Standard, Glenn Coin Column, [4/1/25](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/03/when-trumps-tariffs-wound-canada-upstate-ny-bleeds-too-cars-farms-beer.html)]
* **Trade Between New York State And Canada Supported An Estimated 600,000 Jobs.** “No country is more important to New York growers and manufacturers than Canada. Our northern neighbor is the No. 1 export market for New York. Just over half of the state’s exported agricultural products head north. More than $1 of every $8 of goods New York exports goes to Canada. Exports to Canada are double that of New York’s next-biggest trading partner. On the flip side, New York ranks No. 5 among U.S. states for receiving Canada’s exports. New York imports more goods from Canada than any other country besides China. It’s a trade partnership that adds up to a $42 billion exchange each year, an economic trade engine bigger than Vermont’s GDP. It provides an estimated 600,000 jobs in both places in dozens of industries.” [Syracuse Post-Standard, Glenn Coin Column, [4/1/25](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/03/when-trumps-tariffs-wound-canada-upstate-ny-bleeds-too-cars-farms-beer.html)]
* **Syracuse Post-Standard: “New York’s Economy Could Take A Bigger Hit From U.S. And Canadian Tariffs Than Much Of The Rest Of The United States.”** “No country is more important to New York growers and manufacturers than Canada. Our northern neighbor is the No. 1 export market for New York. Just over half of the state’s exported agricultural products head north. More than $1 of every $8 of goods New York exports goes to Canada. Exports to Canada are double that of New York’s next-biggest trading partner. On the flip side, New York ranks No. 5 among U.S. states for receiving Canada’s exports. New York imports more goods from Canada than any other country besides China. It’s a trade partnership that adds up to a $42 billion exchange each year, an economic trade engine bigger than Vermont’s GDP. It provides an estimated 600,000 jobs in both places in dozens of industries. […] It means New York’s economy could take a bigger hit from U.S. and Canadian tariffs than much of the rest of the United States.” [Syracuse Post-Standard, Glenn Coin Column, [4/1/25](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/03/when-trumps-tariffs-wound-canada-upstate-ny-bleeds-too-cars-farms-beer.html)]
* **Syracuse Post-Standard: “New York Farmers Are Especially Vulnerable To The 25% Tariffs That President Donald Trump Announced.”** “New York farmers are especially vulnerable to the 25% tariffs that President Donald Trump announced and that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau matched. New York’s growers send more than half of all agricultural exports north of the border. ‘If you’re thinking about how significant Canada is, it represents roughly half of the agricultural and food export market for New York,’ said Vivek Astvansh, a professor of quantitative marketing and analytics at McGill University in Montreal. ‘That’s very, very significant.” [Syracuse Post-Standard, Glenn Coin Column, [4/1/25](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2025/03/when-trumps-tariffs-wound-canada-upstate-ny-bleeds-too-cars-farms-beer.html)]

**HEADLINE: “More Tariffs Could Hit NYC Small Businesses Hard, Economic Reporter Warns.”** [NY 1, [4/8/25](https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/mornings-on-1/2025/04/08/more-tariffs-could-hit-nyc-small-businesses-hard--economic-reporter-warns)]

**NY1: “New York City’s Small Businesses Could Take A Major Hit If President Trump Follows Through On A New Round Of Tariffs Against China.”** “New York City’s small businesses could take a major hit if President Donald Trump follows through on a new round of tariffs against China, according to one economic reporter. Trump has threatened to impose an additional 50% tariff on Chinese goods if the country doesn’t lift its retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports—fueling fresh fears for businesses already grappling with rising costs and market instability. Greg David, fiscal and economics reporter for TheCity.NYC and former editorial director at Crain’s New York Business, joined ‘Mornings On 1’ Tuesday to break down the impact. ‘It’s bad for small businesses. It’s bad for big businesses, too,’ David said. ‘If you’re importing goods and the cost goes up by 50%, or theoretically 100%, that’s going to be a huge problem.’ He noted that many business owners are struggling to find affordable U.S. manufacturers, leaving many businesses in limbo. ‘People don’t know how to plan,’ he said. ‘The tariffs were far larger and more expensive than anyone expected.” [NY 1, [4/8/25](https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/mornings-on-1/2025/04/08/more-tariffs-could-hit-nyc-small-businesses-hard--economic-reporter-warns)]

**HEADLINE: “Upstate N.Y. Awaits Uncertain Impact Of Trump Tariffs.”** [Spectrum News, [4/1/25](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/04/01/upstate-ny-awaits-uncertain-impact-of-trump-tariffs)]

## STEFANIK BACKED DOGE, CALLING IT “COMMON SENSE” AND DESCRIBING ELON MUSK AS A VISIONARY, EVEN AS IT GUTTED CRUCIAL PROGRAMS AND FIRED NEW YORKERS

### STEFANIK SUPPORTED DOGE, CALLING IT “COMMON SENSE,” SAYING SHE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO ELON MUSK’S WORK AT DOGE AND CALLING HIM A “VISIONARY”

**Stefanik Praised Trump’s Creation Of DOGE As “Common Sense And America First,” Saying It Protects Taxpayer Dollars And Prevents Funding Anti-American Interests.** "DOGE is as common sense and America First as it gets! @POTUS creation of DOGE is fighting for Americans’ hard-earned taxpayer dollars and ensuring America is not propping up anti-American interests. @realDonaldTrump" [X, @RepStefanik, [3/5/25](https://x.com/RepStefanik/status/1897116020311261421)]

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[X, @RepStefanik, [3/5/25](https://x.com/RepStefanik/status/1897116020311261421)]

**January 2025: Stefanik Said She Was Looking Forward To Elon Musk’s Work At DOGE And Called Him A Visionary.** STEFANIK: “I was not at the rally, but I can tell you, I've been at many rallies with Elon Musk, who loves to cheer when President Trump says we need to send you know our US space program to Mars. Elon Musk is a visionary. I'm looking forward to his work in DOGE, the Department of government efficiency, and look forward to looking how we can be more efficient and effective. But that is simply not the case.” [YouTube, Face the Nation, “Elise Stefanik testifies at Senate confirmation hearing for U.N. ambassador | full video,” 1:22:02, [1/21/25](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0-fKa0QDXo)] (VIDEO)

**October 2024: Stefanik Said That She Liked The Idea Of Elon Musk Being Appointed To Make Cuts Across The Government.** STEFANIK: “where I would cut also. Is, I like the idea that President Trump is rolled out of appointing Elon Musk to look at every single agency and look for savings. The reality is, we have our government is way too big. There are duplicative programs. There needs to be a transition to the 21st Century that's focused on effectiveness and direct results and not this bloated bureaucracy. And the way you do that is look at savings in every single agency.” [YouTube, Elise Stefanik (Elise for Congress), “Elise Joins Talk of the Town 10.17.2024,” 4:54, [10/21/24](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tv_uZcXUN7U)] (AUDIO)

*Note: Further research is needed to find strong A/V assets and other visuals of Stefanik and Musk together.*

### DOGE FIRED AT LEAST 811 WORKERS IN NEW YORK

**DOGE Fired 811 New Yorkers As Part Of Their Cuts To The Federal Workforce.** “Hundreds of New Yorkers fired from federal jobs as part of the Trump administration's workforce cuts have been reinstated under court order but placed on leave, according to a new court filing by administration officials. […] How many of these workers live in NY? Caught in that tenuous state are most or all of the 811 New Yorkers who were fired from federal agencies and had applied for unemployment as of last Friday. Their salaries and benefits have been temporarily restored, but they aren't returning to their workplaces for the time being and don't know how long their firing reprieve will last.” [LoHud, [3/18/25](https://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/2025/03/18/ny-federal-workers-fired-by-trump-administration-reinstated-for-now-what-happens-next/82514044007/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z115523p118250c118250e000800v115523b0038xxd003865&gca-ft=165&gca-ds=sophi)]

### DOGE SLASHED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDING, INCLUDING FREEZING $464 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### DOGE SLASHED FUNDING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING PROGRAMS FOR KIDS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID

**The Department Of Education Was A “Prime Target” For DOGE Cuts.** “The Education Department has been a prime target of DOGE, the chaotic cost-cutting initiative led by billionaire Elon Musk, now a senior adviser to Trump.  So far, DOGE has halted 89 education projects, many of which were under the purview of the Institute of Education Sciences, the ostensibly independent research arm of the Education Department. The administration said those cuts, which included multi-year contracts, totaled $881 million. In recent years, the federal government has spent just over $800 million on the entire IES budget.” [Chalkbeat, [2/26/25](https://www.chalkbeat.org/2025/02/26/trump-doge-cuts-to-education-research-hit-classrooms-and-students/)]

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WAS CUT IN HALF AND $900 MILLION WERE CUT FROM THE DEPARTMENT’S RESEARCH OFFICE

**HEADLINE: “The Education Department Is Being Cut In Half. Here's What's Being Lost.”** [NPR, [3/13/25](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/12/nx-s1-5325854/trump-education-department-layoffs-civil-rights-student-loans)]

**HEADLINE: “Musk’s ‘Doge’ Guts Nearly $1bn In US Education Department’s Research Office.”** [The Guardian, [2/11/25](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/11/doge-education-department-cuts-trump)]

**DOGE Claimed To Have Cut $900 Million In Funding From The Department Of Education’s Research Division.** “In early February, Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) made deep cuts to the Education Department's research division, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).  DOGE said it cut dozens of research contracts worth roughly $900 million. These cuts included large-scale efforts to study everything from the best ways to teach literacy in the early grades to how to help students with disabilities make the sometimes difficult transition from high school into the working world.” [NPR, [3/13/25](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/12/nx-s1-5325854/trump-education-department-layoffs-civil-rights-student-loans)]

DOGE CUTS WERE EXPECTED TO IMPACT 727 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF WORKING IN THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID

**DOGE Cuts Were Expected To Impact 727 Department Of Education Staff Who Worked In The Office Of Federal Student Aid.** “The Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), which administers the sprawling federal student loan portfolio, was hit especially hard in Tuesday's cuts, losing more than 320 unionized staffers.  That's on top of other big staffing losses, which were discussed during an internal FSA meeting held Wednesday morning, sources told NPR.  In that meeting, top Education Department and FSA officials said they will lose more than 450 employees to this upcoming reduction-in-force – and a combined 727 when you include probationary staff who've been terminated as well as veteran workers who have agreed to retire or leave voluntarily.” [NPR, [3/13/25](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/12/nx-s1-5325854/trump-education-department-layoffs-civil-rights-student-loans)]

DOGE CUT FUNDING FOR A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT HELPED TEENS WITH DISABILITIES

**HEADLINE: “DOGE Abruptly Cut A Program For Teens With Disabilities. This Student Is 'Devastated.”** [NPR, [4/14/25](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/14/nx-s1-5345870/trump-doge-students-disabilities)]

**DOGE Cut Funding For A Department Of Education Program To Help Teens With Disabilities.** “When teens and young adults with disabilities in California’s Poway Unified School District heard about a new opportunity to get extra help planning for life after high school, nearly every eligible student signed up.  The program, known as Charting My Path for Future Success, aimed to fill a major gap in education research about what kinds of support give students nearing graduation the best shot at living independently, finding work, or continuing their studies. […] Then the Trump administration pulled the plug.  Charting My Path was among more than 200 Education Department contracts and grants terminated over the last two weeks by the Trump administration’s U.S. DOGE Service. DOGE has slashed spending it deemed to be wasteful, fraudulent, or in service of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals that President Donald Trump has sought to ban. But in several instances, the decision to cancel contracts affected more than researchers analyzing data in their offices — it affected students.” [Chalkbeat, [2/26/25](https://www.chalkbeat.org/2025/02/26/trump-doge-cuts-to-education-research-hit-classrooms-and-students/)]

JULY 2025: THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FROZE $464 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HEADLINE: “U.S. Department Of Education Holding Back Funding For New York Schools.”** [WXXI, [7/3/25](https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2025-07-03/u-s-department-of-education-holding-back-funding-for-new-york-schools)]

**July 2025: The Department Of Education Froze $464 Million In Grants To Public Schools In New York.** “The U.S Department of Education is withholding $464 million dollars in grants that were set to be distributed to public schools in New York state.  The Department of Education reportedly sent a notice to state education leaders on Monday that it is withholding more than $6 billion in funding. The federal government reportedly notified states earlier this week, one day before the funds were expected to be released.  ‘Given the change in Administrations, the Department is reviewing the FY 2025 funding for the [Title I-C, II-A, III-A, IV-A, IV-B] grant program(s), and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming year,’ the letter states.  The funding freeze includes money for English language learning services, migrant education, adult literacy, professional development for teachers, and after school enrichment — particularly for families in low-performing school districts with a high concentration of poverty.” [WXXI, [7/3/25](https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2025-07-03/u-s-department-of-education-holding-back-funding-for-new-york-schools)]

#### DURING TRUMP’S FIRST TERM STEFANIK OPPOSED CUTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**HEADLINE: “Stefanik Opposes Trump Cuts To EPA, State Department, Education.”** [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

**March 2017: Stefanik Said She Did Not Support Trump’s Budget Proposal, Warning It Would “Cut Many Important Individual Programs To Our District,” Including The EPA, The State Department And The Department Of Education.** “North Country Congresswoman Elise Stefanik says she doesn’t support President Trump’s budget proposals issued yesterday. In a statement, Stefanik said savings are possible in the federal bureaucracy. But she said the deep reductions outlined by the White House would ‘cut many important individual programs to our district.’ Stefanik added that she is particularly concerned about cuts to the State Department, the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.” [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

**2017: Stefanik Said She Opposed Proposed Budget Cuts To The State Department, Department Of Education And The EPA.** “In an indication of some Congressional opposition to the cuts, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Willsboro -- a rising figure in the Congressional GOP majority who represents the North Country -- said she opposes the proposal, as submitted. ‘While Congresswoman Stefanik believes there are savings to be found in every federal agency, she does not support the president's initial budget proposal, especially the proposed cuts to the State Department, the Department of Education and the [Environmental Protection Agency],’ said Stefanik spokesman Tom Flanagin. ‘Furthermore, the president's budget would cut many important individual programs to our district that Congresswoman Stefanik supports.” [Schenectady Daily Gazette, [3/17/17](https://www.dailygazette.com/news/how-trump-budget-cuts-would-hurt-locally/article_52438d3b-59cd-526c-b1ab-0a6dcc17e1a9.html)]

### DOGE DECIMATED THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP), WHICH STEFANIK HAD PREVIOUSLY BACKED

#### DOGE DECIMATED LIHEAP, WHICH PROVIDED HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE TO 6 MILLION FAMILIES, INCLUDING 1.8 MILLION NEW YORKERS

**HEADLINE: “DOGE Cuts And Trump’s Plans Leave A Heating Assistance Program In Limbo.”** [Washington Post, [4/26/25](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/26/trump-liheap-cuts-heating-assistance/)]

**DOGE Tried To Eliminate The Entire Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).** “For decades, presidents of both parties have at times attempted to shrink a government program that helps poor people pay their energy bills, arguing that the program was vulnerable to fraud or that lower gas prices warranted reduced funding. Every time, the program has endured because of staunch support from members of Congress and outcry from people who say the program is vital to their survival. But now President Donald Trump — with the help of DOGE — is trying to kill the program for good. And he may succeed. The Trump administration is seeking to eliminate all $4 billion in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), according to internal budget documents for the Department of Health and Human Services first reported by The Washington Post earlier this month.” [Washington Post, [4/26/25](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/26/trump-liheap-cuts-heating-assistance/)]

**DOGE Fired The Entire Staff Of LIHEAP.** “For decades, presidents of both parties have at times attempted to shrink a government program that helps poor people pay their energy bills, arguing that the program was vulnerable to fraud or that lower gas prices warranted reduced funding. Every time, the program has endured because of staunch support from members of Congress and outcry from people who say the program is vital to their survival. But now President Donald Trump — with the help of DOGE — is trying to kill the program for good. And he may succeed. The Trump administration is seeking to eliminate all $4 billion in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), according to internal budget documents for the Department of Health and Human Services first reported by The Washington Post earlier this month. […] Congress could still reject Trump’s plan. But in the meantime, Elon Musk’s U.S. DOGE Service — otherwise known as the Department of Government Efficiency — is creating a new reality on the ground. Earlier this month, HHS, which administers the program, fired all the people who administer LIHEAP — raising questions about how the program will operate going forward, if at all.” [Washington Post, [4/26/25](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/26/trump-liheap-cuts-heating-assistance/)]

**LIHEAP Provided Help To More Than 6 Million Families.** “Currently, LIHEAP provides help to more than 6 million families. The money is divvied up among states, territories and federally recognized tribes, using a formula determined by Congress. Those entities are responsible for doling out the money to their neediest residents.” [Washington Post, [4/26/25](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/26/trump-liheap-cuts-heating-assistance/)]

**1.8 Millio New Yorkers Received LIHEAP Benefits.** “The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, commonly referred to as HEAP, is designed to assist income eligible households with their heating or utility costs. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024, 1.8 million beneficiaries were authorized in New York State, totaling $398.2 million in benefits with an additional $31.7 million in funding for administration.” [Office of New York State Comptroller, LIHEAP, accessed [9/10/25](https://www.osc.ny.gov/reports/budget/fed-funding-ny/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program)]

#### 2017: STEFANIK SUPPORTED THE LIHEAP PROGRAM AND OPPOSED CUTS TO ITS BUDGET

**2017: Stefanik Supported $3.39 Billion In Funding For The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.** “There is also funding in the bill for home heating assistance for those who are eligible. ‘The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides critical resources for the most vulnerable in our district, and this bill provides more than $3.39 billion in federal assistance for this important program,’ Stefanik said.” [Plattsburgh Press-Republican, 5/2/17]

**2017: Stefanik Opposed Proposed Budget Cuts To Home Heating Oil Assistance.** “Stefanik, however, does have a long history of going her own way when she feels her base of support might otherwise slip. Through Flanagin, she criticized the Trump budget's proposed cuts to district needs such as home heating oil, regional air service, and Great Lakes restoration. Ultimately Congress controls the power of the purse and will write the final federal spending plan,'' Flanagin said in an email. ‘Throughout the appropriations process, Congresswoman Stefanik will fight for the needs of our district.” [Albany Times-Union, [5/25/17](https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Shakeup-elevates-Stefanik-s-role-11171955.php)]

### DOGE SLASHED EPA FUNDING, WHICH STEFANIK HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED WHEN TRUMP TRIED TO CUT IT

#### DOGE SLASHED EPA FUNDING AND STAFF

**June 2025: New York Times: DOGE Officials At The EPA Were Working On “Efforts To Dismantle [The] Agency.”** “At the Interior Department, DOGE members have been converted into federal employees and embedded into the agency, said a person familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation. And at the Environmental Protection Agency, where a spokeswoman said that there are two senior officials associated with the DOGE mission, work continues apace on efforts to dismantle an agency that Mr. Trump has long targeted.” [New York Times, [6/7/25](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/07/us/politics/trump-musk-doge-interior-epa.html)]

**HEADLINE: “EPA Plans To Cut Scientific Research Program, Could Fire More Than 1,000 Employees.”** [Associated Press, [3/18/25](https://apnews.com/article/epa-science-layoffs-trump-doge-8a5743b9281e3f82afdf2cdd5f972d5f)]

**March 2025: The EPA Planned To Eliminate Its Scientific Research Office And Could Fire More Than 1,000 Employees.** “The Environmental Protection Agency plans to eliminate its scientific research office and could fire more than 1,000 scientists and other employees who help provide the scientific foundation for rules safeguarding human health and ecosystems from environmental pollutants.  As many as 1,155 chemists, biologists, toxicologists and other scientists — 75% of the research program’s staff — could be laid off, according to documents reviewed by Democratic staff on the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.  The planned layoffs, cast by the Trump administration as part of a broader push to shrink the size of the federal government and make it more efficient, were assailed by critics as a massive dismantling of the EPA’s longstanding mission to protect public health and the environment.” [Associated Press, [3/18/25](https://apnews.com/article/epa-science-layoffs-trump-doge-8a5743b9281e3f82afdf2cdd5f972d5f)]

**E&E News: DOGE Officials At The EPA Had “A Wishlist Of Programs To Cut.”** “A newly appointed DOGE official at EPA sent colleagues a spreadsheet in mid-February containing a wishlist of programs to cut.  ‘[H]ere’s a list of contracts and grants that we want to push forward to cancellation, and keep the momentum going!’ Kathryn Loving, a Department of Government Efficiency staffer working at EPA, said in a Feb. 11 email to her DOGE colleague and senior staffers to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.  The list of proposed cuts went to EPA’s Assistant Deputy Administrator Travis Voyles; EPA senior advisers Paige Hanson and Thomas Corlett; and Cole Killian, another DOGE official at EPA.” [E&E News, [4/24/25](https://www.eenews.net/articles/legal-docs-show-doge-at-work-inside-epa/)]

**HEADLINE: “DOGE Terminates More EPA, Interior Leases.”** [E&E News, [3/14/25](https://www.eenews.net/articles/doge-terminates-more-epa-interior-leases/)]

**DOGE Closed At Least 10 EPA Offices.** “The DOGE website now lists lease cancellations at EPA offices in Norcross, Georgia; Erlanger, Kentucky; and Indianapolis. Those are in addition to seven EPA leases previously listed among the DOGE terminations.  EPA said in an email Friday that the agency ‘continues to work with GSA to ensure that the critical functions supported at the facilities are not disrupted.’ The agency did not comment on why those particular leases were targeted for cancellation.” [E&E News, [3/14/25](https://www.eenews.net/articles/doge-terminates-more-epa-interior-leases/)]

**February 2025: Trump Said That The EPA Intended To Cut 65% Of Its Staff.** “At Wednesday morning’s Cabinet meeting, President Donald Trump praised Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin for a plan to make aggressive cuts at the agency and lay off 65 percent of its workforce.  Hours later, the White House walked back the president’s comments, saying that EPA intends to cut 65 percent of its spending, not 65 percent of the agency’s staff — pulling back a statement that rattled employees at the agency charged with protecting the nation’s air and water.” [Politico, [2/26/25](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/26/trump-epa-spending-cut-00206228)]

* **The White House Later Clarified That The EPA Was Going To Cut 65% Of Its Budget, Not Its Staff.** “A White House spokesperson later clarified that Trump was referring a planned 65 percent cut to EPA’s budget, not its workforce.  ‘President Trump, DOGE, and Administrator Zeldin are committed to cutting waste, fraud, and abuse across all agencies,’ White House spokesperson Taylor Rogers said in a statement, referring to the Department of Government Efficiency. ‘After recently identifying $20 billion fraudulent in spending, Administrator Zeldin is committed to eliminating 65% of the EPA’s wasteful spending.” [Politico, [2/26/25](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/26/trump-epa-spending-cut-00206228)]

**An EPA Spokesperson Said That The EPA Was Working With DOGE To Cut Waste, Fraud And Abuse.** “A White House spokesperson later clarified that Trump was referring a planned 65 percent cut to EPA’s budget, not its workforce.  ‘President Trump, DOGE, and Administrator Zeldin are committed to cutting waste, fraud, and abuse across all agencies,’ White House spokesperson Taylor Rogers said in a statement, referring to the Department of Government Efficiency. ‘After recently identifying $20 billion fraudulent in spending, Administrator Zeldin is committed to eliminating 65% of the EPA’s wasteful spending.” [Politico, [2/26/25](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/26/trump-epa-spending-cut-00206228)]

#### DURING TRUMP’S FIRST TERM, STEFANIK OPPOSED CUTS TO THE EPA

**2018: Stefanik Fought The Trump Administration’s Effort To Defund And Dismantle The Environmental Protection Agency.** “Stefanik has also broken with Trump by urging action on climate change, which the President describes inaccurately as a conspiracy theory, possibly fostered by the Chinese. […] With some success, she also fought the administration’s effort to defund and largely dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency. In April, she was among the first Republicans to call for EPA administrator Scott Pruitt to step down. He departed three months later.” [NCPR, [8/10/18](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/36799/20180810/trump-visit-stefanik-loyal-to-president-despite-sharp-differences-on-policy-ethics)]

**HEADLINE: “Stefanik Opposes Trump Cuts To EPA, State Department, Education.”** [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

**March 2017: Stefanik Said She Did Not Support Trump’s Budget Proposal, Warning It Would “Cut Many Important Individual Programs To Our District,” Including The EPA, The State Department And The Department Of Education.** “North Country Congresswoman Elise Stefanik says she doesn’t support President Trump’s budget proposals issued yesterday. In a statement, Stefanik said savings are possible in the federal bureaucracy. But she said the deep reductions outlined by the White House would ‘cut many important individual programs to our district.’ Stefanik added that she is particularly concerned about cuts to the State Department, the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.” [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

* **Trump’s Budget Outline Would Have Cut Roughly 30% Of The EPA’s Funding.** “Environmental Protection Agency cuts spark concerns in North Country. In President Trump’s budget outline, the EPA draws the deepest cuts, roughly 30%. That includes most programs aimed at curbing climate change, slashing funding for protecting Lake Ontario and the other Great Lakes, and stripping roughly a third of the money for cleaning up contaminated Superfund sites. The future of the EPA has been a major issue at protests and rallies across the North Country since Donald Trump won November’s election.” [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

**2017: Asked If She Would Defend The EPA Against Cuts, Stefanik Said That She Would Judge Cuts “On A Case-By-Case Basis.”** “The issue of the EPA came up again when constituents met with Stefanik in a closed door session. One of those present was Paul Smiths College professor and climate researcher Curt Stager. Judging cuts on a case-by-case basis ‘Will you support the EPA against cuts to funding and staff just across the board? According to Stager, Stefanik replied that she would judge cuts on a ‘case by case basis.’ However, if there were particular bills that have a negative impact on my district, I would of course stand against those.’” [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

**2017: Stefanik: “I Know There Is Some Concern That There Are Proposals To Abolish The EPA. I Assured The Group Members That I Would Not Vote To Abolish The EPA.”** “In an interview with North Country Public Radio this month, Stefanik herself acknowledged that the EPA’s future is on the minds of some of her constituents. ‘I know there is some concern that there are proposals to abolish the EPA. I assured the group members that I would not vote to abolish the EPA.’” [NCPR, [3/17/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33599/20170317/stefanik-opposes-trump-cuts-to-epa-state-department-education)]

**2017: Stefanik Said She Would Not Vote For A Republican-Sponsored Measure That Would Defund The EPA.** “Dr. Curt Stager at Paul Smiths College is one of the leading voices in the country on issues of climate and the environment. Last week, he joined a group of voters who met with Elise Stefanik in her office in Glens Falls. […] Stager said it was a chance to talk to Stefanik about the future of the Environmental Protection Agency. Stefanik has promised not to vote for a Republican-sponsored measure that would defund the EPA.” [NCPR, [3/7/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33527/20170307/stefanik-avoids-town-halls-but-still-finds-ways-to-connect)]

* **Stefanik Said She Would Not Vote Against Cuts To Funding And Staff-Levels At The Environmental Agency.** “Stager said he urged Stefanik to go further, voting against cuts to funding and staff-levels at the environmental agency. ‘She said, well no, I wouldn’t do that, I'd take it on a case by case basis,’ he added.” [NCPR, [3/7/17](https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33527/20170307/stefanik-avoids-town-halls-but-still-finds-ways-to-connect)]

**2017: Stefanik Said She Opposed Proposed Budget Cuts To The State Department, Department Of Education And The EPA.** “In an indication of some Congressional opposition to the cuts, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Willsboro -- a rising figure in the Congressional GOP majority who represents the North Country -- said she opposes the proposal, as submitted. ‘While Congresswoman Stefanik believes there are savings to be found in every federal agency, she does not support the president's initial budget proposal, especially the proposed cuts to the State Department, the Department of Education and the [Environmental Protection Agency],’ said Stefanik spokesman Tom Flanagin. ‘Furthermore, the president's budget would cut many important individual programs to our district that Congresswoman Stefanik supports.” [Schenectady Daily Gazette, [3/17/17](https://www.dailygazette.com/news/how-trump-budget-cuts-would-hurt-locally/article_52438d3b-59cd-526c-b1ab-0a6dcc17e1a9.html)]

**2017: Stefanik Said That She Would Work To Fight Back Against Cuts To The EPA.** [53:55] STEFANIK: “And the reason why that legislation is important as issues like the budget come up and EPA, that is a coalition that we can work with to fight back against cuts to the EPA. I've already come out against the president's budget where there was significant cuts to EPA, which would have had impacts on programs specifically in this district, programs to combat invasive species, the Lake Champlain Basin program, other anti acid rain programs within the Adirondacks.” [YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 53:55-54:23, [5/10/17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW426IMOYoA&t=2s)] (VIDEO)

**2017: Stefanik Said That She Did Not Agree With Trump’s Budget That Significantly Cut The EPA.** [53:55] STEFANIK: “And the reason why that legislation is important as issues like the budget come up and EPA, that is a coalition that we can work with to fight back against cuts to the EPA. I've already come out against the president's budget where there was significant cuts to EPA, which would have had impacts on programs specifically in this district, programs to combat invasive species, the Lake Champlain Basin program, other anti acid rain programs within the Adirondacks.” [YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 53:55-54:23, [5/10/17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW426IMOYoA&t=2s)] (VIDEO)

**2017: Stefanik Said She Committed To Voting Against Trump’s Budget If It Slashed EPA Funding.** [01:06:35] STEFANIK: “I think the big issue that's going to come immediately are some of the proposals coming out of the administration, the budget cuts, as I mentioned, is a real first test for environmental voices within the Congress, and many of us I know have already committed to voting against the president's budget when it comes to the slashing of the EPA funding, then we will have an opportunity to pass appropriations bills to make sure that important programs that combat invasive species, that are supporting renewable energy, sources get funded.”[YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 1:06:35-1:07:09, [5/10/17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW426IMOYoA&t=2s)] (VIDEO)

### DOGE SLASHED NIH FUNDING, WHICH STEFANIK HAD PREVIOUSLY BACKED AND EVEN VOTED TO INCREASE

#### DOGE SLASHED NIH FUNDING BY BILLIONS AND FIRED THOUSANDS OF STAFF, IMPACTING RESEARCH ON CHILDHOOD CANCERS AND DEMENTIA

**HEADLINE: “NIH Killed Grants On Orders From Elon Musk’s DOGE.”** [Nature, [5/21/25](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01617-8)]

**HEADLINE: “NIH Under Orders To Cancel $2.6 Billion In Contracts.”** [Science, [4/3/25](https://www.science.org/content/article/nih-under-orders-cancel-2-6-billion-contracts)]

**April 2025: The NIH Fired 1,300 Employees.** “Along with the firings of up to 1300 co-workers this week and the removals of several institute leaders, National Institutes of Health (NIH) employees are dealing with another blow from the administration of President Donald Trump: a mandate to eliminate $2.6 billion in contracts. Contracts make up much of NIH’s overall $47.4 billion budget, supporting many activities and much of its workforce.  As the nonprofit online news site NOTUS reported on 2 April, the cuts are part of a 35% reduction in contracts that billionaire Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has requested at each division within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), NIH’s parent agency. Science has learned that emails went out across NIH starting last week calling for staff to review lists of contracts that DOGE suggests could be trimmed or canceled.” [Science, [4/3/25](https://www.science.org/content/article/nih-under-orders-cancel-2-6-billion-contracts)]

**DOGE Told The NIH To Cut Its Contracts By 35%.** “Along with the firings of up to 1300 co-workers this week and the removals of several institute leaders, National Institutes of Health (NIH) employees are dealing with another blow from the administration of President Donald Trump: a mandate to eliminate $2.6 billion in contracts. Contracts make up much of NIH’s overall $47.4 billion budget, supporting many activities and much of its workforce.  As the nonprofit online news site NOTUS reported on 2 April, the cuts are part of a 35% reduction in contracts that billionaire Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has requested at each division within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), NIH’s parent agency. Science has learned that emails went out across NIH starting last week calling for staff to review lists of contracts that DOGE suggests could be trimmed or canceled.” [Science, [4/3/25](https://www.science.org/content/article/nih-under-orders-cancel-2-6-billion-contracts)]

**DOGE Cuts At The NIH Impacted Work On Child Cancer Therapies, Dementia And Strokes.** “When President Trump took office in January, he tapped the Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE, to shrink the federal government. The National Institutes of Health, the largest funder of biomedical research in the world, has since fired 1,300 employees and cancelled more than $2 billion in federal research grants. […] According to NIH employees, work on child cancer therapies, dementia and stroke have slowed or stopped because critical lab and support staff were let go.” [CBS News, [4/27/25](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nih-layoffs-budget-cuts-medical-research-60-minutes/)]

**HEADLINE: “Scientists Fear Trump Administration Cuts To NIH Could Impact The Health Of Americans For Generations.”** [CBS News, [4/27/25](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/scientists-fear-trump-administration-nih-cuts-could-impact-health-60-minutes-transcript/)]

**HEADLINE: “NIH Faces Renewed DOGE Directive To Cut Staff, Putting Thousands In Line For RIFs.”** [Government Executive, [3/7/25](https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2025/03/nih-faces-renewed-doge-directive-cut-staff-pre-covid-levels-putting-thousands-line-rifs/403593/)]

**DOGE Told The NIH TO Cut 3,400 Employees.** “The National Institutes of Health is planning to trim its workforce by around 3,400 employees, Government Executive has learned, though that goal is being set by the Department of Government Efficiency rather than anyone inside the agency.   DOGE staff met with career officials as recently as Friday afternoon to reiterate the directive, which included an instruction to develop plans that would reset staffing levels to those NIH employed at the end of fiscal 2019. Acting NIH Director Matthew Memoli—a long-time career NIH employee—sat in on the discussion but political appointees for the Health and Human Services Department were not involved, according to a source familiar with the meeting.” [Government Executive, [3/7/25](https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2025/03/nih-faces-renewed-doge-directive-cut-staff-pre-covid-levels-putting-thousands-line-rifs/403593/)]

**DOGE Directed Dramatic Cuts To NIH Grant Programs.** “On Friday night, the Trump administration dramatically cut NIH grants that support research institutions, with the change taking effect today, POLITICO’s Irie Sentner reports.  The cuts stem from the plans of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, led by billionaire Elon Musk, which wants to cut the fat in federal programs.  The NIH, which said it sent more than $35 billion in grants to over 2,500 institutions in fiscal year 2023, announced it would cap the rate the grants pay for ‘indirect funding,’ which can cover universities’ overhead and administrative costs, at 15 percent — down from an average of nearly 30 percent, with some universities spending more than 60 percent.” [Politico, [2/10/25](https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-pulse/2025/02/10/how-hhs-gets-doged-00203300)]

#### 2015 – 2018: STEFANIK BACKED NIH FUNDING, VOTING TO EXPAND ITS BUDGET

**2018: Stefanik: “I Think Investing In NIH Research And Doing More To Support Generics Is A Way To Ensure That We’re Able To Lower The Cost Of Prescription Drugs.”** ELISE STEFANIK: “I think investing in NIH research and doing more to support generics is a way to ensure that we're able to lower the cost of prescription drugs. I think supporting hospitals in the North Country, they have a program called 340 B, which allows them to purchase prescription drugs at a lower cost so it doesn't cost patients more out of pocket. I've been an advocate for the 340 B program. But I think investing in NIH, continuing to streamline the FDA and make sure that costs go down, while also continuing to promote innovation, which is why we wouldn't support additional taxes. I'm not talking about tax free every company in this country should abide by our tax laws, but I don't want to see it additional taxes.” [Mountain Lake PBS, 45:41, [4/6/18](https://mountainlake.org/elise-stefanik-town-hall-in-moriah-ny-full-raw-video-april-2018/)] (VIDEO)

**2017: Stefanik Said That Investing In The National Institute Of Health’s Research And Development Would Help Lower Drug Prices.** [24:54] STEFANIK: “I think another way to address drug prices are investing. NIH funding, National Institute, Institute of Health Research and Development. That's incredibly important research, and it helps us get access to these lifesaving medications faster. We had an increase in NIH funding, and I signed on to every single letter advocating for that increase.”[YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 24:54-25:19, [5/10/17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW426IMOYoA&t=2s)] (VIDEO)

* **2017: Stefanik Said That Increased Investment In NIH Would Help Lower The Price For Life Saving Medicines.** [26:35] COMMUNITY MEMBER: “So my question is, what will you do to give us more leverage to negotiate a reasonable price for life saving medicines. And will you sponsor a bill that will prohibit, not just transparency, but will prohibit an elected official who accepts pharmaceutical company money from voting on healthcare issues?” [26:57] STEFANIK: “Sure. So again, the first question, I think the way we can lower prices, is continuing to invest in NIH. I think that's critical. You talk about the importance there. And also being open to discussions on a bipartisan basis to allow the government to negotiate with drug prices. I think that would help lower the cost. You and I had talked about that proposal. And I think that there's bipartisan interest in that, and I'm engaged in those discussions, and I think this is an area where the President is reaching across the aisle to engage in those discussions. When it comes to the last proposal, I'm always willing to look at draft legislation and consider it and get further feedback from the district.” [YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 26:35-27:39, [5/10/17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW426IMOYoA&t=2s)] (VIDEO)

**2017: Stefanik Claimed That She Signed On To “Every Single Letter” That Advocated For An Increase In NIH Funding.** [24:54] STEFANIK: “I think another way to address drug prices are investing. NIH funding, National Institute, Institute of Health Research and Development. That's incredibly important research, and it helps us get access to these lifesaving medications faster. We had an increase in NIH funding, and I signed on to every single letter advocating for that increase.”[YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 24:54-25:19, [5/10/17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW426IMOYoA&t=2s)] (VIDEO)

**2017: Stefanik Supported A $2 Billion Budget Increase For The NIH.** “She also supports the funding in the bill for treatment initiatives. ‘This legislation includes a $2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, which does critical work to research and develop new treatments,’ Stefanik said. ‘In a 21st-century health-care system, we must prioritize bio-medical research so we can finally tackle the most pressing health issues facing our nation.” [Plattsburgh Press-Republican, 5/2/17]

**2016: Stefanik Said Supported Investing In NIH And Medical Research To Find Cures To Diseases Like Alzheimer’s.** [57:01] STEFANIK: “And again, what's important is, how do we stem the overall cost of healthcare, broadly as a nation, investing in NIH and research to find cures is absolutely critical, particularly as we look at, as I said, diseases like Alzheimer's that are going to cost our society billions of dollars. Let's invest in research to find those cures. That's a bipartisan issue. That's a bipartisan area where I have been a strong advocate for.” [YouTube, EDC Warren County, 57:01-57:30, [10/25/16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf7seL_yt04)] (VIDEO)

**2016: Stefanik Said She Supported Investing In Medical Innovation, Including The 21st Century Cures Act.** [37:08] STEFANIK: “We should keep aspects like allowing young people to stay on their parents plan until the age of 26. I also think it's important to invest in medical innovation, which is why I've advocated for the 21st Century Cures Act which will set Research and Innovation goals to tackle diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, etc.” [YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 37:08-37:27, [10/25/16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86pqlALt8N4)] (VIDEO)

**2016: Stefanik Said She Co-Sponsored The 21st Century Cures Act, Which Had Provisions To Tackle Lyme Disease And Alzheimer’s And Parkinson’s Research.** [31:00] STEFANIK: “But when it comes to healthcare, we need to look towards the future. How do we innovate? How do we invest in research? I am a proud co-sponsor of the 21st Century Cures Act, which has important provisions to tackle Lyme disease, an issue we discussed at this very location. It also sets goals to how do we find a cure for Alzheimer's? How do we invest to find a cure for Parkinson's? I want to focus on innovation and investment for the long run to have a positive impact on everyone's family when it comes to health care.” [YouTube, EDC Warren County, 31:00-31:32, [10/25/16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf7seL_yt04)] (VIDEO)

**2016: Stefanik Said That The 21st Century Cures Act Would Support Initiatives For Lyme Disease.** [04:22] HOST: “So looking at accomplishments, what didn't you accomplish this year? Or what was your biggest disappointment?” […] [04:47] STEFANIK: “One example is the 21st Century Cures Act, which modernizes our health care program in this country the way we approve cures. So, the FDA process, for example. We also had important initiatives for Lyme disease, making sure that we find a cure for that in the 21st Century, Cures Act that passed on a bipartisan basis out of the house, but it hasn't even been brought up for a vote in the Senate. That's been my biggest frustration and my biggest realization as a freshman member is we can get things done on the House side, but you have to work with the Senate.” [YouTube, Mountain Lake PBS, 04:22-05:18, [1/29/16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ3Xf7pVo7Y)] (VIDEO)

**2015: Stefanik Voted For Passage Of The 21st Century Cures Act, Which Sought To Accelerate Development And Delivery Of Cures To Diseases And Medical Conditions.** In 2015, Elise M. Stefanik voted for passage of a bill that would modify current federal processes involving medical research, developing drugs and other treatments, and testing and approving those drugs and treatments in an effort to accelerate the development and delivery of cures to diseases and medical conditions. It would also reauthorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for three years and includes numerous initiatives to promote medical research and attract young scientists, and it reauthorizes Food and Drug Administration (FDA) activities for five years and modifies elements of FDA's drug and medical device review and approval process to accelerate the approval and distribution of new drugs and medical devices for diseases and conditions that don't currently have treatments. It would provide $9.3 billion in fully offset mandatory spending for a five-year "Innovation Fund" to provide additional funding to the two agencies, with NIH to receive $1.75 billion a year for biomedical research and the FDA to receive $110 million a year for Cures development activities. [H.R. 6, Vote #433, [7/10/2015](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2015/roll433.xml); D: 174-7, R: 170-70]

**May 2015: Stefanik Cosponsored H.R. 6, The 21st Century Cures Act.** In May 2015, Stefanik cosponsored H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, which was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. [H.R. 6, cosponsored [5/19/15](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/6)]

* **The 21st Century Cures Act Was Part Of The “Cancer Moonshot” And Included $6.3 Billion In Medical Research Funding, Largely For The NIH.** “The 21st Century Cures Act provides us all with an example of how government should work, and how effective and productive bipartisanship can be. Now if lawmakers could only apply some of that same spirit to ease the bitterness surrounding Obamacare that threatens to undermine much of the good work that could come out of the Cures Act, we’d all be much better off. The newly signed $6.3 billion legislation includes several initiatives long supported by President Obama and is more popularly known as the ‘moonshot’ bill — part of Vice President Joe Biden’s ‘cancer moonshot’ inspired by the death of his son, Beau, to a brain tumor. The measure devotes $4.8 billion to biomedical research, about $1.8 billion of which would go specifically to cancer research under the ‘Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot.” [Asbury Park Press, Editorial, [12/17/16](https://www.app.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/12/17/st-century-cures-act-obama/95567222/)]

## TRUMP PROPOSED CUTTING PROGRAMS THAT STEFANIK DEFENDED IN HIS FIRST TERM

### DESPITE STEFANIK’S PAST DEFENSE OF THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICES PROGRAM, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED CUTTING THE PROGRAM’S BUDGET BY HALF

#### 2017: STEFANIK OPPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICES PROGRAM

**2017: Stefanik Opposed Proposed Budget Cuts To The Essential Air Services Program.** “President Donald Trump's proposed deep cuts to the Essential Air Service program, if passed as he is suggesting, could eliminate Massena's airport from competing with Ogdensburg's. […] Schumer, Stefanik Oppose Cuts Both Senator Charles Schumer, a Democrat, and Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, a Republican, are against the president's plan to cut EAS. ‘Congresswoman Stefanik opposes these proposed cuts to the Essential Air Service. While Congresswoman Stefanik believes there are savings to be found in every federal agency, she does not support the President's initial budget proposal, especially the proposed cuts to the State Department, the Department of Education, and the EPA. Furthermore, the President's budget would cut many important individual programs to our district that Congresswoman Stefanik supports,’ Stefanik's spokesman Tom Flanagin said via email.” [North Country This Week, 3/29/17]

#### 2025: TRUMP PROPOSED CUTTING THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICES PROGRAM BUDGET IN HALF

**2025: The Trump Administration Wanted To Cut The Essential Air Services Program By $308 Million, Or 52% Of Its Total Budget.** “A program that has subsidized commercial aviation rural routes and that is particularly significant in Alaska is a target for a more than 50% reduction in funding under President Donald Trump’s budget proposal.   On May 2, White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought released Trump’s recommendations for 2026 federal funding levels. One target for significant reduction was the nearly 50-year-old Essential Air Service program. In its rationale for the cut, the Trump administration wrote that EAS ‘funnels taxpayer dollars to airlines to subsidize half-empty flights from airports that are within easy commuting distance from each other.’   It proposed slashing EAS current funding by about 52%, or $308 million. The administration offered no suggestion on what might replace EAS in airports that lose the service.” [Alaska Beacon, [5/8/25](https://alaskabeacon.com/2025/05/08/trump-proposed-cut-to-federal-essential-air-service-would-fall-on-rural-alaska/)]

**2025: The Trump Administration Wanted To Cut The Essential Air Services Program By 50%.** “A federal program that subsidizes flights to small airports across the country could significantly shrink, if President Donald Trump gets his way.  The Essential Air Service program has been around since Congress’ 1978 deregulation of the airline industry. Before then, the federal government dictated where major airlines flew their planes and how much they charged for those flights. That changed with deregulation, but lawmakers feared airlines might abandon some rural communities. So they created Essential Air Service (EAS), which subsidizes flights to over 170 small airports. It’s still around — awarding contracts to airlines and airports this fiscal year at a total cost of nearly $600 million.  But in its budget proposal for the next fiscal year, which begins in October, the Trump administration proposed slashing that funding in half by changing the program’s eligibility requirements. The reccomendation argues the program subsidizes ‘half-empty flights from airports that are within easy commuting distance from each other, while also failing to effectively provide assistance to most rural air travelers.” [Marketplace, [8/19/25](https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/08/19/trump-wants-to-slash-federal-funds-for-rural-airport-service)]

#### PLATTSBURGH’S AIRPORT RELIED ON THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICES PROGRAM AND IT BROUGHT TAX REVENUES INTO CLINTON COUNTY

**Plattsburgh Was Served By The Essential Air Services Program.** “Plattsburgh, New York, is one small city that’s received EAS flights for decades. Rae Torres grew up there, but when she needed to fly, she would typically drive about an hour and a half to the airport in Burlington, Vermont. That drive includes a ferry ride across Lake Champlain.  ‘So you'd have to leave at, like, three in the morning,’ she said. ‘If you missed the ferry, then you had to wait longer. It just created so much more of a nightmare because of the extra cost and time.’ […] The flight she took is subsidized by the Essential Air Service program. Plattsburgh had an EAS route when Torres lived here, but for years, it wasn’t the most comfortable experience for many flyers, according to Chris Kreig, the airport’s director.” [Marketplace, [8/19/25](https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/08/19/trump-wants-to-slash-federal-funds-for-rural-airport-service)]

**The Essential Air Services Program Brought Travelers And Tax Dollars To Plattsburgh And Clinton Country.** “But for the last few years, the Plattsburgh airport has had a federally-funded contract with Contour Airlines. The company flies 30-seat jets, a more traditional flying experience. They fly everyday to Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., giving Plattsburgh residents access to connections all over the world. The route brings travelers into the Plattsburgh area too, noted Molly Ryan, economic development director for Clinton County, where Plattsburgh is located.  ‘That is tax dollars, that is sales tax revenue,’ she said, standing in the airport concourse, watching as passengers got off a fairly full flight from Dulles. ‘That is people coming into the area, spending money in our restaurants, our stores, supporting local businesses. And so having that funding has a significant impact on our local economy.” [Marketplace, [8/19/25](https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/08/19/trump-wants-to-slash-federal-funds-for-rural-airport-service)]

* **Clinton County Economic Development Director Molly Ryan: “Having [EAS] Funding Has A Significant Impact On Our Local Economy.”** “But for the last few years, the Plattsburgh airport has had a federally-funded contract with Contour Airlines. The company flies 30-seat jets, a more traditional flying experience. They fly everyday to Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., giving Plattsburgh residents access to connections all over the world. The route brings travelers into the Plattsburgh area too, noted Molly Ryan, economic development director for Clinton County, where Plattsburgh is located.  ‘That is tax dollars, that is sales tax revenue,’ she said, standing in the airport concourse, watching as passengers got off a fairly full flight from Dulles. ‘That is people coming into the area, spending money in our restaurants, our stores, supporting local businesses. And so having that funding has a significant impact on our local economy.” [Marketplace, [8/19/25](https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/08/19/trump-wants-to-slash-federal-funds-for-rural-airport-service)]

### DESPITE STEFANIK’S PAST DEFENSE OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED ELIMINATING IT

#### 2025: TRUMP PROPOSED ELIMINATING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

**HEADLINE: “Trump Seeks to Eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts.”** [New York Times, [5/2/25](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/02/arts/nea.html)]

**2025: Trump Proposed Eliminating The National Endowment For The Arts Entirely.** “President Trump proposed eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities in the budget he released Friday, taking aim once again at two agencies that he had tried and failed to get rid of during his first term.” [New York Times, [5/2/25](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/02/arts/nea.html)]

#### 2017: STEFANIK OPPOSED PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

**2017: Stefanik Said She Opposed Proposed Budget Cuts To The National Endowment For The Arts.** “President Donald Trump's budget blueprint drew widespread criticism this week, mainly because of the proposed cuts to several important programs ranging from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to Meals on Wheels. Among the targets in Trump's first budget plan: the National Endowment for the Arts. Under the president's proposal, funding for the NEA would be eliminated. The co-chairs of the Congressional STEAM Caucus, U.S. Reps. Suzanne Bonamici and Elise Stefanik, spoke out against the proposed cuts. The pair issued a statement saying that slashing the NEA's funding is ‘short-sighted and counterproductive.” [Auburn Citizen, 3/18/17]

### DESPITE STEFANIK’S PAST DEFENSE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED SLaSHING ITS BUDGET BY NEARLY 50%

#### 2017: STEFANIK OPPOSED CUTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT

**2017: Stefanik Said She Opposed Proposed Budget Cuts To The State Department, Department Of Education And The EPA.** “In an indication of some Congressional opposition to the cuts, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Willsboro -- a rising figure in the Congressional GOP majority who represents the North Country -- said she opposes the proposal, as submitted. ‘While Congresswoman Stefanik believes there are savings to be found in every federal agency, she does not support the president's initial budget proposal, especially the proposed cuts to the State Department, the Department of Education and the [Environmental Protection Agency],’ said Stefanik spokesman Tom Flanagin. ‘Furthermore, the president's budget would cut many important individual programs to our district that Congresswoman Stefanik supports.” [Schenectady Daily Gazette, [3/17/17](https://www.dailygazette.com/news/how-trump-budget-cuts-would-hurt-locally/article_52438d3b-59cd-526c-b1ab-0a6dcc17e1a9.html)]

#### 2025: TRUMP WANTED TO SLASH THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY NEARLY 50% AND FIRED THOUSANDS OF STAFF

**The Trump Administration Wanted To Cut The State Department Budget By 48%.** “Workers at the US state department say firings, resignation buyouts, a proposed budget cut of 48%, and reorganization under the Trump administration has left staff with low morale and will likely have long-term impacts.  Foreign programs and services aimed towards LGBTQ+ communities, maternal and reproductive health, and minority groups have been removed or cut in place of far-right ideological policies being pursued by a 26-year-old senior adviser and Trump appointee at the agency.  Senate Democrats and workers have criticized recent firings at the department, characterizing them as ‘unlawful’, ‘sloppy’ and ‘rushed.’  More than 1,350 employees at the state department received Reduction In Force (Rif) notices on 11 July after the supreme court lifted injunctions blocking the Trump administration from moving forward with them, about 15% of the domestic workforce.” [The Guardian, [7/21/25](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/21/us-state-department-trump-firings-cuts)]

**The Trump Administration Was Weighting A $26 Billion Budget Cut To The State Department.** “The Trump administration is weighing asking Congress to cut the budgets of the State Department and USAID by nearly half as it continues its effort to dramatically curtail government spending, according to a document obtained by POLITICO.  The proposal for fiscal 2026 would allocate $28.4 billion to State and USAID, down from $54.4 billion in the enacted fiscal 2025 budget. That includes cuts demanded by the White House Office of Management and Budget. It also accounts for the dismantling of USAID; its remaining programs are in the process of being subsumed by the State Department.” [Politico, [4/14/25](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/14/trump-state-department-budget-00289269)]

**HEADLINE: “Trump Weighs Slashing State Department Budget By Nearly Half.”** [Politico, [4/14/25](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/14/trump-state-department-budget-00289269)]

**HEADLINE: “State Department Is Firing Over 1,300 Employees Under Trump Administration Plan.”** [PBS, [6/11/25](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/state-department-is-firing-over-1300-employees-under-trump-administration-plan)]

**June 2025: The Trump Administration Planned To Fire 1,107 Civil Servants And 246 Foreign Service Officers.** “The State Department is firing more than 1,300 employees on Friday in line with a dramatic reorganization plan unveiled by the Trump administration earlier this year, a move that critics say will damage America’s global leadership and efforts to counter threats abroad.  The department is sending layoff notices to 1,107 civil servants and 246 foreign service officers with domestic assignments in the United States, said a senior State Department official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters ahead of individual notices being emailed to affected employees.” [PBS, [6/11/25](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/state-department-is-firing-over-1300-employees-under-trump-administration-plan)]

**HEADLINE: “Trump Administration Proposes State Department Cuts In Major Overhaul.”** [BBC, [4/22/25](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yg2y21yq5o)]

**April 2025: The Trump Administration Planned To Cut 130 Offices And 700 Jobs At The State Department.** “The Trump administration is proposing a major overhaul of the US State Department that would involve axing a war crimes office and shifting the focus of staff looking at migration and refugees.  Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the restructure was designed to get rid of offices that are ‘misaligned with America's core national interests’.  The planned cuts at the department include the Office of Global Criminal Justice, which helps set policy on the US response to war crimes and genocide. […] The proposal would eliminate around 130 of 732 domestic offices and scrap 700 jobs as part of what Rubio presented as a major restructure which he said would cut out ‘radical ideologues’ and ‘bureaucratic infighters’.  Rubio said the State Department cost and size had ‘ballooned’ in the past 15 years.” [BBC, [4/22/25](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yg2y21yq5o)]