# Oct 16 - Sherrill - HudsonRiverTunnel

Thank you. Um, I really want to thank everybody who is here. Thank you to our county executive Craig Guy, Senator McCie, who we just heard from, Mayor Mandelle, Mayor Ganelli, Assemblyman Rodriguez, Councilwoman Trangali, Laborers, Vice President, Eastern Regional Manager Mike Helstrom, Jamie Morrison, and I think we just saw John Bartlett, Commissioner John Bartlett, who's been so instrumental in transit here, and I saw Sue Altman, who is here representing Senator Kim. So, it's wonderful to see this support as we fight for something so important to New Jersey as the Gateway Tunnel Project. Um, and I'll tell you, yes, I'm very proud, as you probably noticed, of that moniker, the tunnel obsessed congresswoman because this is something that I have fought for from day one. And we remember the battle days. We remember the first Trump administration when he held infrastructure week seemingly every single week and yet got nothing done and did not fund this project. So to get the federal share was such an accomplishment. And to see how this could so improve our region, especially after summer of hell after summer of hell after summer of hell. And so you also heard today what an impact this will have on quality of life. And look, that's why I'm running for governor, to fight for New Jerseyians, to make their lives better. And this project does just that. If we don't fund this project, if we continue to rely on two hundredyear-old tunnels, which were damaged further in Supertorm Sandy, I have been in them. I can tell you exactly why we need this tunnel in the most heavily traffked rail in the United States and an area of the country responsible for 20% of the nation's GDP. This is critical. This is critical and it's critical to the economy of the United States, but it's also critical to the men and women who commute every single day because without these improvements, it means continuing to miss dinner, to miss soccer games, to not be able to coach teams, to not get time with your family. It's a quality of life issue day after day after day. And really what I remember when my kids were young most uh anxietyinducing it means not getting home in time to pick your kid up from daycare and trying to figure out who can do that as you're madly trying to get home. So this is a huge quality of life issue which is the main reason I fight so hard for it. So look this tunnel project can be responsible for almost a 100,000 jobs in the region. That's what's at stake. If we see delays on this, it's a million dollars a day we'll be paying. And then should the president illegally be able to stop funding until we can clot back, then that is going to raise prices because his tariffs are raising cost on everything. And so once we get shovels back in the ground after any delay, the price will only go up. So that's why we're here today to remind people of how important this is to push back against this idea that we should in any way freeze it or that the president has the power to terminate it. And I think it's also worth noting that my opponent has given this president an A. That was after he said he was freezing the funds. He has said this isn't a New Jersey problem. Well, I'm sure the almost 200,000 New Jerseyians a day who take this tunnel would disagree with that assessment. He says he doesn't hear anything about it. Well, that's willful ignorance because I can tell you we are all talking about it because this is a huge economic impact and a quality of life impact. So, the choice is clear. I'm fighting for the people of New Jersey. He's fighting to excuse Trump. It's unacceptable. And that's why uh I will continue this fight to make sure I always focus on the people of New Jersey making their lives better and making our economy stronger. So thank you. With that, I'll turn it over to questions. Have you got any about whe &gt;&gt; we haven't gotten any more information, but the 18 billion would include Gateway and the the subway that he says he's terminating. &gt;&gt; So, I mean, that's rich, right? Because here is somebody who's tried to excuse it in every turn. Not till I've held him accountable and his backs basically to the wall that he gives this kind of milk toast. Oh yeah, I'll fight for it. In what way? In what way is he going to fight for it? He's not here today. He's not pledging it in front of the trade union. So I find it uh really interesting that the only time he fights for the people of New Jersey is when his backs to the wall and I hold him accountable. &gt;&gt; Congresswoman, the president says a lot of put a lot of initiatives out there. A lot of them were challenged in the court not and any no details on how he could do this saying that it's going to be terminated. He is the president, but how seriously do you take him saying that with no, you know, details about how it could happen. &gt;&gt; Well, I think this is why this race for governor is so important because in order to get good results for people, you have to fight back. You have to be willing to go toe-to-toe. You have to be willing to have your AG take him to court. My opponent has pledged never to take the administration to court. He said he agrees with everything the president does. So if we are going to back the president down from from this assertion, if we are going to make sure we receive those funds that Congress has allocated to us, then we got to fight for them. We can't take a back seat here. And so that's what strong leadership means in these times. And that's why this race for governor is so important here in New Jersey. question. &gt;&gt; No, I have not. process. &gt;&gt; Um, I would stabilize and modernize it, making sure we don't have the swings year-over-year and then modernize. We haven't updated the formula uh in many years now. So, I would modernize that as well for students with disabilities. Um, can we we'll just stick to on topic questions um until we get through those. He's saying he'll freeze funding. So the reason work is continuing now is because we still have some funding left. But once that runs out, uh which would be in a matter of months, then we start to pay a million dollars a day. We have a barge we're renting. We've got shovels in the ground. If we have this stop work order, it's going to cost us about a million a day. And that's until we start to get the lawsuits in for work delays. So it'll be very expensive uh should should he be able to carry this out. &gt;&gt; Congressman shut down. What is your expectation of leadership Congress that this is in fact a negotiating measure by the president in response to the termination of you know I I don't think a negotiating posture can be illegally taking money that Congress has appropriated. So shutdown or not, Congress needs to fight tooth and nail um because this is an area where they have acted and they should not give away power like this. Yeah, I mean I think you bring up a really good point. Uh Jack Chidarelli's voted against uh infrastructure funding about six times. he was there uh to support ending the Ark Tunnel project which we would have already almost been complete on that if not complete and uh he has also said that he's going to take a look at a lot of the transit lines and and cancel them. Um so we see somebody who's moving away from public transit. I am in favor of public transit especially in the state which so needs it for so many different reasons. Um, but I, you know, I think when you say what can be done, I mean, we've, we've basically allocated all the federal share in Congress. And so now we see an out-of-crol president just at his whim saying he's going to cancel it. We are going to stand up and fight for that because um he should have no path forward for that. And and this is what we're fighting for in this country right now is to make sure that we have a president who has to follow the law. When Congress acts as a branch of government and allocates this money, that should be the end of it. Um so we'll fight to get that money back. Is there anything you can do right now as a candidate or should the Murphy administration be doing right now going to court for instance? &gt;&gt; You know, um should as you've heard, he's made these bold statements. Um we need to see the actions and then I think we should immediately be in court to counter them. And I think that's why we're here today because to uh back the administration away from this, I think um I think there has to be an outcry so that people realize it's not going to go unnoticed. I think it's going to lose Jack the election. Uh and I I hope that says something about how this state is going to move forward and the demands we're going to make for this money. &gt;&gt; Question. When does the money run out? several months got &gt;&gt; I've heard three or four months. &gt;&gt; Yeah. I mean I we we've heard that uh Gateway Development Corporation probably has about 45 days of funding on hand right now. Um so but if they don't continue to get those reimbursements as they are scheduled to get um they'll run out of funding and the minute they run out of funding it puts this project in peril. Uh, and look, contracts have been signed already. And when in the construction business, when you're signing contractors with big general contractors who put a lot on the line from their own bonding capacity and the like and have really mobilized to start to do these projects, you're putting a lot at risk. We know we're putting at risk with the tunnel, but you're also putting massive long-term business ventures at risk as well. &gt;&gt; What does tell you You know, I I think right now we're all um looking to see how this would be enacted. There's, like I said, bold statements. There's not movement yet on exactly what this means in practice. &gt;&gt; President Governor Murphy has signal, you know, some sort of willingness to work with. Do you have that? I mean, you're you're going to fight and you know you are willing to sue the president over something like this but are you willing to also sit down and negotiate with him as &gt;&gt; you know I think if you are going to work with this president you have to come of a strong stance of advocating for your state and what you want to see and then you can negotiate I mean my opponent gives up before the negotiations start he starts from a position of whatever you want we'll do that's not leverage That's not negotiation. I I don't think there's anything that's a little more telling about the kind of power Jack Chidarelli would have with the president than the fact that 19 days until his election, the president's punched him in the face like this. That's pretty telling. &gt;&gt; The FDA described when I talked last year, they described a full agreement as a binding contract that can only be broken if one of the partners fails to What will Congress do the delegation do to enforce this contract? &gt;&gt; Well, I think we're um we're probably going to need the courts to enforce the contract. Um we're in the minority in Congress, so we will advocate strongly for it. We will bring on people as as many people as we can build out, but I think um the majority, the GOP majority in Congress has been largely unwilling to take on the president. So hopefully we could see some changes. But I also think uh that this would be something we'd fight out in court should he try to enact this. Thank you. Thank you all so much. I appreciate it. for this for 16 years. [Music] &gt;&gt; I know. Hello. How are you? Yeah. I mean, look, I think you know this project being that the biggest United States [Music] understand one project that's development of these um but they have a certain amount of reimbursement and they submit records back to the United States Department of Transportation. They get put back into their potentially taxpayers on the book because of the commitments made between the governors of states hundreds of millions of dollars billions of dollars billion9 [Applause] billion force the minute you have contractually signific So, how do you build? We see it in 2008 in New York City when the recession happened. We seen building construction stopping. You see empty on the ground when you take out of the system and just freely threaten right now. There's still work that's going on on both sides of the river and in the media. But this development corporation development corporation only has a certain amount of funding on hand to get it through the next 30 days. [Music] to bring down preliminary stage,