

What follows is a transcript of the *Between 2 Ferns* light-hearted, virtual interview of Congressman LaMalfa our three NCRWF gorgeous FOX news look-a-likes held on April 15th.

Jo Ann Rebane – The theme this year for NCRWF programs is “we want to know”. We appreciate Congressman Doug LaMalfa’s appearance today and willingness to submit to our interview questions. *Note: LaMalfa submitted written answers to our questions.*

Mollie Hemingway/Terry McLaughlin - What did you and Congressional Republicans do during the months of the House impeachment beyond storming the SCIF and formally censuring Adam Schiff?

LaMalfa - *After the SCIF event, I focused on the actual productive work we were doing in the House committees I sit on and back home in the district, not the impeachment clown show. Though, I did pass through the room where the famous golden pens were beforehand... I heard they actually cost 15 clams each.*

Shannon Bream/Jeanette Royal - What is the status of negotiations between FEMA, PG&E and the State of California, and what funding sources are being made available to assist Camp Fire victims and the rebuilding of their community?

LaMalfa - *PG&E has finalized the settlement and a very large amount of money is coming from that. Plus, the FEMA and USDA rural funds we’ve been able to help secure for them that will help with things like building the wastewater system that Paradise has needed for years. I think there will be plenty to get everyone back on their feet. These grants have been pretty helpful for our very rural areas.*

Mollie/Terry - The Sites Reservoir, located in California’s Sacramento_Valley area, is designed to be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores storm water flow from the Sacramento River. The year-end spending package signed by the President allocated a \$6 Million investment in this project from the Federal government. Bring us up to date on this project.

LaMalfa - *It’s still moving at a glacial pace since the Democrats and their environmental bosses really do not want water storage increased. The plan was recently revised to lower costs significantly which will help speed up the approval and permitting. More water supply helps everyone as it takes pressure off of the supply we have now by expanding it. Some will be agricultural water, and some will be environmental Delta water. It would be the first taxpayer money to build any real storage in many years as water bonds usually go for conserving, recycling (not necessarily bad things) and buying up more land. You cannot just conserve your way out of a drought.*

Mollie/Terry - President Trump visited California on February 19, at which time he was joined by Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt in signing a Presidential Memorandum intended to help deliver and develop more water supplies in California’s Central Valley using the best available science, and implementing new biological opinions. How will this move aid California’s farmers and protect North state water rights?

LaMalfa - Because of this, federal water can now go more towards filling reservoirs and for crops and urban use. Unfortunately, the state, in the typical fashion of defying everything Trump does, has ratcheted up dumping state water into the ocean, only saving 3 to 5% at the Delta. Sites reservoir and saved water help to protect north state water by increasing supply. This heads off armies of lawyers, because of drought, coming from water-short cities like LA and SF and taking it via courtroom trickery.

Shannon/Jeanette - The [Second Amendment For Every Registrable Voter \(SAFER\) Voter Act](#) would lower the minimum age to purchase a handgun from 21 to 18, the same as the minimum voting age nationally. Under current federal law, an 18, 19, or 20 year-old can legally purchase a shotgun or rifle from a licensed dealer, but not a handgun.

a. If they can vote and serve in the military, shouldn't they also be able to legally purchase a handgun?

b. Interestingly, this Republican push to lower the handgun purchase age from 21 to 18 comes concurrent with the party [supporting the Tobacco to 21 Act](#), which would raise the tobacco purchasing age from 18 to 21. What are your thoughts or justification of these different age requirements?

LaMalfa - The same people that want 16-year old's voting and their 12-year old's seeking surgical sex changes want their 26-year old's living in their parent's basement on Obamacare. Meanwhile, my 22-year-old daughter is not old enough to have my 15 and a 1/2-year-old daughters get student driving miles with her as you have to be 25 or older, and you must be 16 to ride a Jet Ski on a lake. The question is, are you an adult at 18 or 21 or something else? I'm fine with alcohol at 21, any gun at 18, and can debate either side of tobacco at either age. I am leaning more towards 18. I oppose marijuana smoking at any age, for any reason. I think it should be put in a pill for medicinal if it is needed and realistic.

Martha McCallum/Suzie James - Bills don't seem to be presented these days without attaching "pork" to them. Bills such as the National Defense Authorization Act or the most recent bill The Care Act have millions and millions of dollars attached to them that by the time congress votes on them, no one can remember what or why the bill was presented in the first place. Could a bill be presented and just stand on its own for congress to pass it? So many bills seem like the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

LaMalfa - True. Tuco was not the greatest, most reliable partner for Clint Eastwood's character. But, not often are big bills passed cleanly. We got things done for our local counties that had at least a defense nexus to it by tucking it into the defense bill. But as long as we have these creatures called Democrats and must get some of their votes to keep the military running, then they will extract some amount of flesh for it, or the bill stalls and our military and troops suffer until the political fight is over. The CARES Act had an appalling amount in it that was not disaster-related and I struggle to find enthusiasm for it, then and now, as we've opened that scary box and hundreds of billions of new money need to go in it now.

Martha/Suzie - If not, then should there be a limit to how much pork or bundle is attached to a bill before it can be passed?

LaMalfa - There is no excuse for any “pork” except next to eggs or on a BLT. The limit comes with who you elect and do they have a majority, that then sets a given policy in motion, of pork or prudence.

Editor’s note – the remainder of the interview transcript will be published next month.