

PEOPLE'S WORLD

100 YEARS 1924-2024

continuing **THE DAILY WORKER.**



Donald Trump indicted all over again

By Mark Gruenberg

WASHINGTON—Donald Trump has been indicted all over again, by Justice Department Special Counsel Jack Smith, for forcibly trying to overthrow the presidential election almost four years ago, finishing by ordering and aiding the Trumpite invasion and insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

That's because when Trump made his claims of vote fraud and incited the invaders with them, the claims "were false and he knew they were false." the indictment by a D.C. grand jury, directed by Smith, says.

The new indictment concentrates on when Trump incited the invaders at the pre-invasion rally that day on the Ellipse just south of the White House. That rally was a campaign event. Smith's new indictment declares, not an official act. So Trump's speech there can be used as evidence of his conspiracies to overthrow the election. He was acting as a candidate, not as a president with the immunity granted by the Supreme Court whose horrific ruling in that regard is actually itself unconstitutional.

The indictment repeats the four criminal counts Smith lodged in his original case against convicted felon and former President Trump but with changes to the evidence in back of its charges. Gone is some evidence that would fall under the "official functions" of the presidency.

And the new indictment repeatedly refers to Trump as a private citizen when he was running for re-election, not as president. That leaves him open to criminal prosecution.



THIS WEEK:

- Donald Trump indicted all over again
- Israeli police shut down Communist Party HQ to disrupt anti-war activities
- Clean air, water, and soil on the ballot in November
- Jack Smith demands appeals court restore Trump's stolen documents trial
- Enfermeras de Carolina del Norte en el privatizado Mission Hospital hacen piquetes contra nuevos propietarios corporativos

LOCAL CONTACT

contact@peoplesworld.org

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920

Business: (212) 924-2523

Email: contact@peoplesworld.org

The indictment is important because it lands Trump right back in court again. It provides a roadmap for U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who has had to delay the January 6 case for months. She must sift through the evidence and decide what Smith can present in court and what—because of the perpetual immunity from criminal prosecution for official acts Trump now has—Smith can't.

But delays in all the courts, engineered by Trump's legal team, play into Trump's real strategy of stall-stall-stall until after the November election. Then, if he wins, he can appoint toadies to the Justice Department to fire Smith and go to federal courts in D.C. and in Florida and withdraw the two U.S. cases against him. Another, in Fulton County, Ga., Circuit Court, stands. It's delayed, too.

That would be a perversion of justice, legal scholars say—which makes it even more important for voters to defeat Trump at the ballot box this fall.

Smith is trying Trump in the U.S. District Court for Southern Florida on charges of illegally stealing top-secret papers from the White House and stashing them at his Mar-a-Lago estate, where people without security clearance could see and read them. One is a Pentagon war plan to invade Iran.

Had to re-tailor the indictment

Smith had to re-tailor his indictment to meet the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling giving Trump perpetual immunity from federal criminal prosecution for official acts. That meant Smith had to delete some evidence.

The Supreme Court, in its decision on Trump's case claiming total immunity from criminal prosecution forever, said he can never be indicted for official acts, even out of office. But the justices said Trump can still be indicted for personal acts, and Smith's new indictment states clearly that Trump's efforts to keep himself in power—up to and including the invasion and insurrection—were personal, to further his reign in the White House.

The new indictment places a lot more weight on Trump demanding the insurrectionists descend upon D.C. to obstruct the official electoral vote count that confirmed Democrat Joe Biden won the presidency.

The count was scheduled for that day, and Trump ordered the invaders to march on the Capitol to stop it. He promised to lead them, but the Secret Service said it would be too risky. Trump tried to wrestle the steering wheel of his armored SUV away from the Secret Service driver so he could lead them, but lost.

The new indictment also emphasizes Trump's use of his Twitter/X account to incite the insurrection. But it eliminates many of the incendiary tweets he sent egging them on. One that was not eliminated: "Come to Washington. Will be wild!"

The new indictment also puts more emphasis and reveals more detail about Trump's pressuring state officials in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Wisconsin, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania to certify fraudulent electoral votes for him, not Biden. Even some of the fake electors Trump recruited for one of his conspiracies were legally dubious about what the then-president and his co-conspirators demanded.

Biden carried all seven swing states. They provided his Electoral College victory margin over Trump.

The Supreme Court, Smith said, did not give Trump immunity from those criminal charges, because they were campaign-related, as were the acts he used to keep himself in power. Those acts notably included his speech to the Trumpites just before they invaded the Capitol that January day.

- "The defendant [Trump] perpetrated three criminal conspiracies," to keep himself in power even though he lost the election, the new indictment says. The first was "a conspiracy to defraud the United States by using dishonesty, fraud, and deceit to impair, obstruct, and defeat the lawful government function" of counting and certifying the electoral votes.
- The second Trump conspiracy was "to corruptly obstruct and impede" the January 6 official "congressional proceeding"—the actual electoral vote count—"in violation of the law."
- And the third, just as in the original indictment, was "a conspiracy against the right to vote and to have one's vote counted," again according to the law governing federal elections.

“Each of these conspiracies—which built on the widespread distrust the defendant was creating through pervasive and destabilizing lies about election fraud—targeted a bedrock function of the federal government: The process of collecting, counting and certifying the presidential election.”

New indictment drops one co-conspirator

Besides changing some details of the evidence behind the January 6 case, the new indictment drops one co-conspirator, former Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Clark. He agreed to one Trump election fraud plan after Trump said Clark should become Acting Attorney General. Trump backtracked after all other top Justice Department officials threatened to quit on the spot.

Naming Clark as AG was a Trump “official act.” So was Trump’s refusal to accede to then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy’s request to call the invaders off. Trying to overthrow the election wasn’t.

“On the pretext of certain baseless fraud claims, the defendant”—Trump—“pushed officials in certain states to ignore the popular vote, disenfranchise millions of voters, dismiss legitimate electors, and ultimately cause the ascertainment of and voting by illegitimate electors in favor of the defendant,” the indictment explains.

The new indictment keeps and expands on, Trump’s prior testy—and infamous—telephone conversation with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. Trump ordered the secretary, a Republican and the state’s top elections official, to “find” 11,780 more popular votes so Trump could carry Georgia’s 16 electoral votes by one ballot. Raffensperger refused, even after Trump threatened him and his general counsel “with criminal prosecution if they failed to find fraud as he demanded.”

Trump told Raffensperger his demand, adding “It’s more illegal for you than it is for them” referring to two Black Georgian election workers whom Trump accused of ballot box fraud during the phone call. “You know what they did and you’re not reporting it. And you can’t let that happen. That’s a criminal offense and it’s a big risk to you and your lawyer.”

The new indictment also reveals that a month before Trump called Raffensperger, he pressured Georgia’s Attorney General, Republican Chris Carr, into joining the lawsuit led by Texas’s far-right Trumpite AG, Ken Paxton, to overturn the election in other swing states, notably Pennsylvania.

Paxton sued to get election returns from those states Biden carried thrown out, claiming vote fraud in them disenfranchised Texans. His real motive may have been racial. Like Trump, Paxton hates people of color—and Biden carried Pennsylvania due to a heavy turnout in Philadelphia, which has a high share of Black voters. Carr refused to join Paxton’s suit, and federal courts threw it out for lack of evidence and lack of standing to bring it.

The new indictment also says Trump tried seven times to get his Vice President, Mike Pence, to knuckle under and reject electoral votes from contested states where Trump—falsely—claimed fraud occurred. Pence, as the Senate’s presiding officer, kept repeating the Constitution gives the VP a purely ceremonial role in the ballot count, and can’t override the states’ votes. Pence also made the stand public, angering the invaders.

Even before then, Trump grew so threatening, the indictment says, that Pence’s chief of staff sought added Secret Service protection for his boss.

In the High Court’s ruling, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that Trump’s interactions with Pence could “presumptively” be official acts, which means Trump couldn’t be prosecuted. But the Chief Justice left the door open to Smith to prove that they weren’t, and Smith kept them—and expanded their detail—in the new indictment.

The new indictment was the second legal setback at Smith’s hands against Trump in two days. On August 26, Smith appealed the decision of U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon in West Palm Beach, Fla., to throw out the federal case against Trump for stealing secret and classified documents from the White House when he left and stashing them in the shower or scattering them on the floor at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Judge Cannon said Smith was named Special Counsel illegally, without Senate confirmation. Smith said otherwise to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta, asking them to reinstate the case. "As expected, Jack Smith appeals Judge Cannon's decision to throw out Trump Mar-a-Lago documents case. He should win!" former Watergate Deputy Prosecutor Jill Wine-Banks tweeted.

Israeli police shut down Communist Party HQ to disrupt anti-war activities

By Al - Ittihad



Demonstrators protest the closing of the Israeli Communist Party's Haifa headquarters. | Al-Ittihad

HAIFA, Israel—The Israeli police and Netanyahu's Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir attacked the Israeli Communist Party, closing its headquarters in the city of Haifa to stop the party from organizing anti-war and anti-genocide activities.

The police summoned Reem Hazan, secretary of the party's Haifa region, for a second time Monday afternoon and interrogated her about the ICP's actions. After grilling Hazan, they announced the decision to close the party's headquarters in order to prevent the showing of artist Muhammad Bakri's new film *Jenin, Jenin* and to prevent meetings aimed at organizing actions against the aggressive war on Gaza.

In a statement, the Communist Party and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) condemned the measure, saying "It indicates the depth of the fascist practice affecting political and party work in the country that opposes the war and the policy of this government."

The two organizations also stressed their defiance of Netanyahu and Ben Gvir, declaring that "anti-war activity will continue until this criminal war on Gaza stops."

Immediately after the decision to close the headquarters, an emergency session was held by the branch leadership in the city, attended by leaders from the ICP and Hadash nationally, and a number of protest steps were taken against the decision, including organizing a demonstration Monday evening.

The Arab-Jewish Partnership for Peace coalition stated: "We will not remain silent about this attempt at silencing and will not surrender to the police and government's attempts to suppress opposition to the occupation and the war. Fascism will not pass!"

Solidarity was also heard from inside the occupied territories. In a letter addressed to the Israeli Communist Party, the Palestinian People's Party stated: "All the criminal repressive practices targeting the status, activities, and headquarters of your party and Hadash, which fall within the fascist policies of the occupation government and apparatuses against our people and against the forces opposing war and occupation."

The letter added: "The People's Party condemns these persecutions and all the practices of the occupation, and expresses its solidarity with Comrade Hazan, your party, and your victorious coalition. It affirms its confidence in your steadfastness and positions, and together and united in the struggle against the occupation and fascism."

Clean air, water, and soil on the ballot in November

By John Bachtell



Rep. Justin Pearson of the "Tennessee Three" led the fight against an oil pipeline in his district and spoke to the climate panel at the DNC. | George Walker IV/AP

"On the November ballot is whether we will have clean air and water for everybody no matter where they live, and clean soil to plant in. Whether kids will stop dying from asthma, and pipelines will stop being built across our states," declared Tennessee State Representative Justin Pearson. "And if we'll have a climate and environment that is just."

Pearson, one of the Tennessee Three, was speaking on August 21 before the Environmental and Climate Crisis Council at the Democratic National Convention, charged with hammering out the climate plank of the Democratic Platform.

The climate plank addresses the scale of the climate crisis, record temperatures, drought, forest fires, sea level rise, and the growing climate refugee crisis. It celebrates and builds on the environmental policy achievements of the Biden-Harris administration and Democratic congressional majorities, which passed the landmark Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), and CHIPS and Science Act addressing the climate crisis and boosting the transition to renewable energy.

Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., wryly described the historic legislation as an "existential threat" to the fossil fuel industry.

The entire country is experiencing the fruits of that legislation and the Biden-Harris "whole of government" environmental approach. Federal investments have spurred and are spurring the creation of 334,000 clean energy jobs and a growing green energy manufacturing and economic sector. The Biden-Harris administration is rolling out 646 clean energy projects in every state, including battery, EV, and wind and solar manufacturing, as well as many in rural areas and other Trump-friendly parts of the country.

U.S. carbon emissions are down 20% below 2005 levels and on track to reach 40% below 2005 levels by 2030. The progress is far short of what's needed to meet President Biden's goal to half greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, but it's a big step in the right direction.

A Trump administration implementing the anti-environmental policies of Project 2025 stops this progress. Trump famously demanded \$1 billion from fossil fuel corporations for his campaign in exchange for letting them write his administration's energy policies. He vows to repeal the IRA and its environmental justice policies, even though the legislation directs significant funding for wind, solar, and manufacturing to red states where it's popular.

Fossil fuel corporations are fundamentally destroying both the environment and democracy, declared Rep. Jaime Raskin, D-MD. "A key sign of collapse in a society is when a small sector captures power and operates in their interests and not in the interests of the whole of society," he said. "That's where we're at with the fossil fuel sector, and Trump is their loyal servant."

Project 2025 calls for dismantling the EPA and National Oceanic Aeronautics Administration (NOAA), which forecasts weather and tracks extreme weather events. It opens public lands to massive fossil fuel extraction. Trump pledges to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Accords when greater global cooperation is needed.

Carbon Brief calculated that Trump's policies would add 4 billion metric tons of carbon emissions by 2030 — equivalent to the combined annual emissions of the European Union and Japan.

In contrast, Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has been a climate champion for decades. Harris prosecuted corporate polluters as California attorney general and was the first state attorney general to establish an environmental justice unit. Harris supported the Green New Deal during her brief presidential run in 2019.

Harris and the Congressional Progressive Caucus were instrumental in ensuring climate justice was part of the IRA and IIJA. She and Markey launched the \$27 billion National Climate Bank, targeting communities disproportionately impacted by environmental racism and discrimination. Harris was the deciding vote ensuring the IRA's passage.

Vice President nominee Gov. Tim Walz has driven an aggressive climate agenda in Minnesota to ensure the state reaches 100% renewable energy by 2040.

“(Harris) is intentional about asking how policies will impact individuals and communities we have not thought about,” said Ike Irby, Harris's senior climate advisor. “Who is not in the room or at the table or aware this discussion is taking place? Who are we designing policy for and how does it intersect with our broader work?”

Irby said Harris was instrumental in driving the replacement of lead pipes nationwide. “This is not just a public health issue. It's an education and redlining issue with an intergenerational impact. It's about the government's role in meeting the needs of communities that have been crying out for replacing lead pipes for generations.”

The presentations by elected officials, environmental justice organizations, and the Democratic Environmental Network, which comprises state councils and student groups, to the Council meetings and other workshops shaped the DNC climate plank.

The climate plank calls for building on the IRA incentives driving the transition to wind, solar, and geothermal energy, and allocating 40% of funding for vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted.

Decarbonizing the agricultural and transportation sectors will be achieved by 2050, the American Climate Corps will triple, and Democrats will eliminate tens of billions of dollars in federal subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Funding for the EPA, NOAA, climate research, and the construction of a resilient infrastructure to deal with global warming and extreme weather events will increase.

A winning issue in 2024

Many speakers said addressing the climate crisis is a winning issue in 2024. Over 60% of voters want Vice President Harris to cement the legacy of the Biden-Harris administration of taking the climate crisis head-on, according to Danielle Deiseroth, Executive Director of Data for Progress.

Half of all voters say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who wants to make historic investments in sustainable energy and infrastructure, create millions of union jobs on clean energy projects, and significantly invest in communities that have disproportionately borne the brunt of climate change.

A majority of voters reject the false choice propagated by the GOP between jobs and the environment. The green energy boom has been instrumental to the last two years of employment and economic growth.

Seventy-two percent of voters think the climate crisis is impacting their lives, and 70% believe more decisive action is needed. Seventy-four percent support creating clean energy jobs and transitioning to wind and solar. 58% support a transition off fossil fuels by 2040.

“The climate crisis is not coming. It's here and we need to bring (concerned GOP voters) in and broaden our coalition,” said Rep. Maxwell Frost, D-Fla. “Florida is a frontline community in the climate crisis. The water surrounding our state is the temperature of a hot tub, fuel for hurricanes which are more powerful and cause more destruction.”

My district in Orlando received hundreds of thousands of people from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. They are the largest group of climate refugees to move to this country. Extreme heat is killing more people than hurricanes and tornadoes combined,” said Frost.

Reaching voters who prioritize the environment could make the difference in a close election. According to [Data for Progress](#), about two-thirds of voters have a favorable view of Harris’s environmental policies when they learn about them, especially Democrats, youth, and Latinos.

Nathaniel Stinnett reported the [Environmental Voter Project](#) had identified 4.8 million low-propensity [environmental voters](#), most under 35 years old, in six battleground states. Pennsylvania has 245,000 such voters who could determine the outcome.

Major environmental organizations and Future Forward are [spending](#) \$55 million to air climate-related ads in six battleground states.

“It’s great to be here with so many committed people working their butts off for years, and in my case decades, to tackle climate change with the urgency science and our grandchildren demand,” said former White House Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy. “We are winning; now is the time to grab it and run it over the finish line.

“We succeeded because of strong coalitions bringing everybody together at the local, state, and federal levels. People pushing and pushing and pushing because that’s what it takes to make things happen.”

“We must turn the threat of climate change into the biggest opportunity for our country and world. Stay focused. Stay hopeful. And enjoy the journey forward.”

Jack Smith demands appeals court restore Trump’s stolen documents trial

By Mark Gruenberg



Special counsel Jack Smith speaks about an indictment of former President Donald Trump, Aug. 1., 2023, at a Department of Justice office in Washington.
| Jacquelyn Martin/AP

ATLANTA—Justice Department Special Counsel Jack Smith has asked the federal appeals court in Atlanta to put the trial of Donald Trump for stealing classified documents from the White House and taking them to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida back on track.

If Smith wins his demand—and there’s a good chance he will—the judges in the appellate court will send the whole case back down to U.S. District Court for Southern Florida. There, Trump-appointed Judge Aileen Cannon had tossed it out several months ago, saying Smith was illegally appointed.

In lay language, Smith’s filing in the appeals court says Judge Cannon was wrong.

The case is important because its reinstatement would further entangle already convicted felon Trump in more legal troubles, for which he’s spent millions of dollars in campaign contributions, just as he’s trying to recover his balance in the presidential campaign.

The former president is again the Republican nominee for the White House. But now he faces Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, not faltering President Joe Biden. And Trump has been lashing out in personal attacks against both, adding his own personal grievances, not running on issues.

The chance the judges in Atlanta will send the whole case back to Judge Cannon in West Palm Beach is due to their past record. They've already reversed her rulings twice on two Trump cases, including once on a preliminary ruling she issued in the stolen papers case.

Still, the Florida case is unlikely to start before the November election, regardless of which way the appellate judges rule. That raises the risk that if Trump wins the electoral vote and ascends again to the Oval Office, he would name Justice Department toadies who would then fire Smith.

The toadies also would go to federal courts and drop both the Florida case and the one Smith is prosecuting in D.C., concerning Trump's actions—and lack of them—when Trumpites invaded the U.S. Capitol more than three years ago.

Trump sought to block certification

At Trump's command, the invaders sought to prevent Congress from counting the electoral votes and certifying Biden as the winner of the prior presidential election. Smith noted his office is trying that case, too.

Smith's long statement seeks the appeals court's OK to reinstate the Florida purloined papers case. Trump stole the classified and secret documents, including a secret Pentagon plan to invade Iran and a document showing how many nuclear missiles each U.S. sub carries. He illegally carried them off to Mar-a-Lago and stored them in the shower or scattered them on the floor.

Smith also did not ask the appellate judges to look at Cannon's track record in Trump cases, of delay, denials, and reversals by the higher court, and remove her from the documents case. But a legal analyst on cable television, a former veteran Justice Department prosecutor, said the appellate judges in the Atlanta court could do that on their own.

Congress "empowered the Attorney General to authorize 'any other officer, employee, or agency of the Department of Justice'" to perform any functions the department has, including investigations and lawsuits, Smith's office wrote in its brief to the appeals court.

In an eerie echo of Watergate, Smith cited the U.S. Supreme Court's decision 50 years ago ordering another lawless Republican president, Richard Nixon, to turn over his White House tapes to U.S. District Chief Judge for D.C. John Sirica, who was running the Watergate trials.

Sounding like Trump's lawyers, Judge Cannon ruled the Watergate tapes case was not a precedent for Smith to follow. The judge, as a matter of fact, called it "non-binding and unpersuasive dicta," meaning it had no precedent at all. Smith wrote that's not right, either.

Congress "provided that any attorney specially appointed by the Attorney General under law, may, when specifically directed by the Attorney General, conduct any kind of legal proceeding, civil or criminal... which United States attorneys are authorized by law to conduct. Congress further provided the Attorney General 'may appoint officials... to detect and prosecute crimes against the United States.'"

In lay language, Smith told the appellate judges in Atlanta that special counsels, like special prosecutors before them, are legal and the Attorney General can appoint them without having to go through the Senate confirmation process to achieve that goal. Judge Cannon ruled the special counsels aren't legal at all—swallowing the arguments of Trump's lawyers hook, line, and sinker.

"The Special Counsel regulation provides a procedure for appointing a special counsel who exercises discretion over a particular matter 'within the context of the established procedures of the [Justice] Department.'" But in an instance of "the buck stops here," to quote former President Harry Truman, Smith said, "ultimate responsibility for the matter and how it is handled is continuing to rest with the Attorney General."

The special counsel regulation “seeks to strike a balance between independence and accountability in certain sensitive investigations,” Smith said, in an understatement.

“The Attorney General validly appointed the Special Counsel, who is also properly funded,” Smith’s prosecutorial team wrote. “In ruling otherwise, the District Court deviated from binding Supreme Court precedent, misconstrued the statutes that authorized the appointment, and took inadequate account of the longstanding history of Attorney General appointments of special counsels.”

Trump’s lawyers now have the right to reply to Smith’s brief, and then he can file a counter-reply before everybody goes to court. Smith asked the appeals court judges for an oral argument about their complaint, rather than just relying on legal filings.

El movimiento por la paz insta a la gobernadora Whitmer a dejar de apoyar la fábrica de misiles de Michigan

By Brandon Chew



La gobernadora de Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer, revisa la formación de las tropas de la Guardia Nacional de Michigan como su comandante en jefe junto con el mayor general del ejército estadounidense Paul D. Rogers, ayudante general y director del Departamento de Asuntos Militares y de Veteranos de Michigan, en el campamento de entrenamiento de maniobras Grayling, Center, Michigan, 17 de junio de 2022. | Ashley Goodwin / Guardia Nacional del Ejército

GRAYLING, Michigan—Activistas de la organización pacifista CodePink están alentando a los residentes de Michigan a escribir a la gobernadora Gretchen Whitmer en oposición al posible desarrollo de una instalación de municiones por parte de una compañía de misiles en el estado.

Saab AB, una empresa sueca aeroespacial y de armas, anunció a principios de este año que tiene la intención de construir una nueva instalación de municiones en Estados Unidos, con Grayling, Michigan, como una ubicación potencial. La compañía dijo que tiene la intención de que la instalación “apoye la ingeniería y producción de sistemas de armas de misiles para el ejército estadounidense, como componentes para el sistema de bombas de pequeño diámetro lanzadas desde tierra (GLSDB) y armas de combate cuerpo a cuerpo”.

Según se informa, también se está considerando la posibilidad de Odon, Indiana, que se encuentra a unas 40 millas de la División de Grúas del Centro de Guerra Naval de Superficie. Según se informa, Saab AB tiene la intención de anunciar la ubicación final de su sitio en septiembre y comenzar la construcción de las instalaciones para 2026.

“Las municiones Saab se han utilizado en numerosos conflictos globales con efectos destructivos, incluida la Guerra del Golfo, las invasiones estadounidenses de Irak y Afganistán y la actual guerra entre Rusia y Ucrania”, dijo CodePink en un comunicado.

“Estas municiones han planteado importantes preocupaciones humanitarias y ambientales debido a su potencial de causar víctimas civiles y contaminación ambiental”, dijo CodePink. “Por ejemplo, la bomba de pequeño diámetro lanzada desde tierra (GLSDB) y el sistema AT4 han sido criticados por su falta de precisión y su impacto desproporcionado en los civiles, la infraestructura y el medio ambiente”.

CodePink ofrece a los residentes de Michigan una carta que pueden enviar a Whitmer. La carta sostiene en parte que el Estado debería invertir en sectores como la atención sanitaria, la educación, la energía renovable y los servicios sociales, en lugar de invertir “en industrias que perpetúan el conflicto, la violencia y el genocidio”.

Whitmer ha dicho anteriormente que apoya el desarrollo de las instalaciones en Grayling.

"Nadie debería sorprenderse de que una empresa que se dedica a la fabricación de vanguardia esté buscando un lugar en Michigan", dijo Whitmer en junio. "Lo hacemos mejor que nadie. Realmente estamos haciendo crecer nuestro sector manufacturero. Y sabemos que todas las habilidades que tenemos (en torno a los automóviles y otros tipos de manufactura) son absolutamente trasladables a una industria de defensa en crecimiento. Por eso, me alegro de que Michigan esté en el radar de todos, como debería estar".

Grayling es el sitio del Centro de entrenamiento de maniobras conjuntas de Camp Grayling. Con 148.000 acres, es el centro de entrenamiento de la Guardia Nacional más grande de los Estados Unidos. En abril de 2023, el Departamento de Recursos Naturales del estado rechazó una propuesta para duplicar el tamaño de Camp Grayling agregando 162,000 acres de tierras forestales estatales. La propuesta fue rechazada tras meses de protesta pública e incluso oposición de políticos republicanos como el congresista Jack Bergman.

Si bien la propuesta fue rechazada, el DNR de Michigan dijo que concluyó un Memorando de Entendimiento con el Departamento de Asuntos Militares y de Veteranos. El memorando establece que la DMVA puede solicitar permisos de uso de suelo limitados para realizar ejercicios en hasta 52.000 acres de terreno elegible. Este memorando es un motivo de preocupación para los lugareños, como aquellos de Anglers of the Au Sable, un grupo conservacionista.

Camp Grayling ha generado controversia entre los residentes locales, entre otras razones, por contaminar el agua con PFAS, el llamado "químico permanente". La exposición a PFAS (o sustancias polifluoroalquiladas) se ha relacionado con tasas más altas de ciertos cánceres, disminución de la fertilidad, presión arterial alta durante el embarazo, retrasos en el desarrollo de los niños y otros problemas de salud. Si bien el ejército informó por primera vez sobre la contaminación con PFAS en Camp Grayling en 2016, se informa que allí se ha utilizado espuma contra incendios que contiene PFAS durante décadas.

En 2020, la Guardia Nacional de Michigan estableció el Centro Nacional de Guerra de Todos los Dominios (NADWC), que abarca Camp Grayling, el Centro de Entrenamiento de Preparación para el Combate de Alpena, la Base de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Selfridge en Harrison Township (aproximadamente a 27 millas de Detroit) y el Base de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Battle Creek.

El objetivo de la NADWC es hacer que los centros de la Guardia Nacional sean más atractivos para que los contratistas privados y el Departamento de Defensa prueben nuevas tecnologías de armas.

"Desde que presentamos NADWC, mi teléfono ha estado sonando con la industria privada tratando de ingresar a este espacio", dijo el teniente coronel James Crowley en una entrevista con DBusiness Magazine en julio de 2022. "Y la ventaja es que Tenemos mucha disponibilidad y mucho terreno para que la gente venga aquí y juegue".

"El interés que tengo como comandante aquí en Grayling es tratar de crear un entorno en el que siempre se tengan las últimas tecnologías en torno a esas funciones de guerra cuando estén listas", dijo el coronel Meyers.

Unidades militares extranjeras entrenan en Camp Grayling durante los ejercicios Northern Strike, que se llevan a cabo dos veces al año en enero y agosto. Estos ejercicios son de gran escala y abarcan el terreno asignado al Campamento Grayling, así como el espacio aéreo asignado al Centro de Entrenamiento de Preparación para el Combate de Alpena.

Estos ejercicios permiten que unidades militares de varios países entrenen juntas al mismo tiempo e incluso han proporcionado entrenamiento a las fuerzas militares taiwanesas, como informó el Wall Street Journal en febrero de 2023.

El estado de Michigan y sus residentes tienen más que ofrecer al país y al mundo, y se debe resistir a los esfuerzos por convertir este estado en un patio de recreo para belicistas y contratistas de armas.