



## CAIT CONLEY WANTS TO REPRESENT NY 17 - PART 1

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter



This is the first part of an interview I did with NY 17<sup>th</sup> prospective candidate who wishes to unseat Congressman Mike Lawler, Cait Conley. There were so many topics discussed this needs to be in multiple parts.

The NY 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is one of the hotbed districts in the country. It is the one that gave the Republicans the majority in the House of Representatives in the 2024 election. There are 5 Democrats left who are running in the Democrat primary in June who want to turn this district to them and give the Democrats the majority in the House : Conley is one of them.



As I do with all my interviews, I let Conley know that this is not going to be a softball interview. “It's going to be a hardball interview, and I'll say to you what I said, everybody, if you can't handle the hard balls there's the stairs. You know where the door is.”

She responded, “I'm born for the hard fights. Let's go, bro. Then we're on.”

The first thing we talked about was her background.

“I'm a very proud 4th generation Hudson Valley native. My mom's side of the family goes back in Peekskill to my great grandfather and grandfather who worked in the brickyard in Montrose when that was open. My mom was born in Peekskill. My dad born and raised in Hopewell Junction. It's changed a lot over the last years. He was a construction worker.”

“I'll tell you, Dutchess County, the whole Hudson Valley area is just beautiful, right? I grew up running around Mount Beacon, right, swimming in the river, all that good stuff.

Where did her family originate from. Her name kind of gives it away.

“So Irish, very if they named Cait Conley. What's been pretty amazing too is when you look at the history in the Hudson Valley, the old Croton Dam, how it was constructed largely, people talk about the new Croton Dam and, and a lot of the Italian immigrants that came over to help build it because of the understanding of infrastructure in Europe in that time. The old Croton Dam was built by a lot of Irish immigrants who came over.

“When you talk about the role immigration plays in our nation, literally it has been essential in us building America to include right here in the Hudson Valley.”

Well, people would counter what you're saying is they were legal immigrants, differentiating it from what happened during the Biden administration where people just coming across the border willy-nilly and ignoring our immigration laws and procedures.

Conley replied, “I would say yes, and look, people coming into this country outside of the legal immigration process is a problem. That's been a problem for decades, I think. Let's be very real. So I'll keep, but I'll keep telling you a little bit. In terms of

kind of like my story. I was a junior in high school in Pine bush when the terror attacks on 9/11 happened.”

That event is what inspired her to join the military because she doesn't come from a military family outside of the World War II generation where all of her family served.

She said she was very much raised with the ethos in her family of public service and giving back. It's the John F. Kennedy belief that you don't ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country kind of mentality. Her mom exemplified that, again, 48 years of the postal service.”

“One of my favorite stories to tell about my mom because when I talk about examples of leadership that shaped who I am, when she was a postmaster, I remember waking up Christmas Day, she had to open two presents, and he got in the car, and we would go to the postal plant in Newburgh and we'd pick up packages and we'd go and deliver them, and I remember asking my mom. Why are we doing this? It's Christmas Day. The post office is closed. We're not supposed to be working. She'd look at me and say, this is our responsibility. This is our responsibility to our community, and you never know if this is the only package a family is going to get.”

The biggest introduction to Cait Conley is why are you running?

“So, I talked about going off to West Point after 9/11 and felt that call to serve even if you never planned on serving in the military after 9/11. It awoken this sense of selfless service in a way that I didn't necessarily plan on before.”

It's been almost 25 years and it's still very real, but it is that same sense of a responsibility to serve, which is why she's doing this now. It's for the same reasons. She says she loves our country and believes it is worth fighting for. Over my career so far, whether it was 16 years in the army, she did 6 tours overseas. In her last 2 years in uniform, she was at the White House serving as the director for counterterrorism and then at CISA.

“I feel like everything that I was fighting for, right, to make sure that America was safe and secure and the American dream was real and we we're keeping the core of what it means to live with American values alive to watch politicians

on both sides get this country into this mess and watch it being let off a cliff. I couldn't let happen and so it is that second sense of feeling that. That responsibility to serve in this way.

<https://youtu.be/-M7FsozVckQ>

My electric bill is over \$400 a month. Half of that is getting the electricity, the power from Pa. to here. I'm sorry if they can do anything that will cut that bill, even cut that down by \$100. There's more money in my pocket.

"I agree with you. So, then you should also be outraged that this administration literally cut federal funding for investments in energy infrastructure that were solar and wind that were going to help New York communities, because look, at the end of the day. There's a lot of different ways to create energy. If we are facing an energy crisis, we should be trying to generate more energy, but we're not facing an energy crisis."

I pointed out, No, but we are when it comes to the bills, but a man-made one by closing down things like Indian Point, by stopping, production of oil and natural gas. Those are man-made crises, not natural. If we didn't have it. I'd say, oh, you're right, we're facing a crisis, we don't have it. But the United States has the biggest stores of natural gas, liquid natural gas, and oil in the world. When Biden cut the pipelines that could have gotten us 900 million barrels of oil from Alberta per day. That cut the supply. That cut energy. That created a crisis. We are producing more energy than we ever have in American history now, but under Biden we weren't.

She responded, "That's not true either."

He cut and canceled offshore drilling. He canceled the Keystone pipeline. He canceled the pipeline to Alaska. He stopped all of it, but let Russia start the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which gave them the money for the Ukraine war.

"So, the fact that we are failing to recognize the tremendous opportunity in creating solar, wind, and geothermal energy production is really a strategic failure of America. Even China understands it. You look at China. Compare it to America, they're doing phenomenal when it comes to alternative energy investment.

So, the fact that we as America are losing in this space to China shows how poor our strategic vision has been, and we were fixing that.

You want to talk about bringing American jobs back to America, investing in a better future. We know that alternative energy that is cleaner and more efficient is better and faster. We should be doubling down on that and having America be a global leader in these things."

She continued that instead, this president is literally killing American jobs in the solar industry today, to include here in New York.

Talk to some of these companies operating. Some of the, most of these companies that I've heard about, like the one that I've got my solar with, have gone bankrupt. I've had a problem with my solar since it was put in, it was never operating right, and they wanted me to pay them for a system that wasn't even working, I told them to forget it. So, they ended up shutting me down because I didn't pay them. They said, they said to me, "Well, you're paying for the equipment. I'm not paying for the equipment. I'm paying for a service that you guys breached your contract which was not up and running within 12 months. Not only did they breach their contract, but they also breached the warranty of merchantability. I don't know if you know what that is.

She asked me if I thought that oil and gas companies are making a significant profit?

I responded, All these companies make profit. That's what they're designed. That's what capitalism is, right?

"And I'm a capitalist. I love capitalism, but do you think American taxpayer dollars should be going to pay oil and gas company subsidies in 2026?"

No, the companies make enough of their own money.

"But talking about energy, look, I believe if we do this right, Keith. We could not only make sure that the energy production in America is meeting the growing demand, but we're doing it in a way where we're growing American jobs.

I would love for America to become the center of critical energy technology manufacturing, and we talked about how that benefits our communities.

I would love, like when you talk about what, what jobs folks could get into. I would love for us to be investing in things like expanding the overseas so that we have not just HVAC technician training, but like solar panel installation and maintenance certification, robotic repair." There's so many opportunities to cultivate an industry to bring jobs to our communities and do energy better, efficiently, and cheaper. All of these things we need going forward." She stated.

I responded to her by explaining to her about some of these windmills that are supposed to produce a lot of electricity and how little they are actually producing.

<https://youtu.be/cOo7XwrtDFU>

"I will tell you, I think we are going to be facing changes in the workforce employment that are already happening, and we need to think about where does it make sense for us to be investing as a country. I mean, we see it here, Keith, all across Rockland County, across the river too in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester our critical infrastructure is failing."

Oh, I believe me, I'm not disagreeing with you. There are roads, bridges, and stuff that need to be fixed. But the other thing, then, if that's the case, and these are things that are happening under Republican and Democratic administrations, so we're not going to just put this on Trump.

"You haven't heard me just put it..." she interjected.

No, no, no, no, no, no, I'm not, no, I'm not, I'm not saying that. I'm saying what I'm about to say next, OK.

And it's again, yeah, but last night, (April 16) I mean, all of you, it was, all of you were all over Trump on things. What I'm about to talk about is the importing of the H-1B visa and all these other visas that allow foreign workers to come in here. Yeah, somebody was, I heard somebody last night that I was talking with or he listening to that a friend of hers. I forgot what the industry was, but they hired somebody from India to and had, and she, they had her training her replacement. We need to stop these people from coming in from other countries to do the jobs that Americans can do.