



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

press@blakefornny.com

Out-of-Touch NY-21 Candidates Constantino and Smullen Personally Loan Themselves Millions of Dollars

LISBON, N.Y. — Millionaire congressional candidates Anthony Constantino and Robert Smullen bankrolled their campaigns with \$5 million and \$500,000, respectively, in the fourth quarter of 2025, sharply contrasting dairy farmer Blake Gendebien's grassroots campaign supported by more than 69,000 total individual donors.

The fundraising totals are so disingenuous that Smullen even ["announced his campaign had raised more than \\$500,000... without identifying that \\$500,000 was a personal loan"](#) – and didn't respond to the press when asked for comment over his blatant lie. Meanwhile, Constantino continues to brag about spending millions of his own money as families across the North Country face the impacts of tariffs, rising costs, and rural hospitals at risk of closure.

"North Country families can't trust someone to understand their day-to-day concerns or fight for their needs when they have hundreds of thousands – or millions – of dollars to casually dump into their political campaigns," **said Blake Gendebien.** "As a dairy farmer, I know firsthand how rising grocery and healthcare bills squeeze working families. In Congress, I'll fight to lower costs and increase access to quality, affordable healthcare, not cut taxes for the ultra-wealthy like Constantino and Smullen."

Last week, Gendebien announced a series of reforms he would support in Congress, including banning members and their families from trading individual stocks and suspending pay during government shutdowns so that representatives focus on delivering for their communities, not putting profits over people.

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Born and raised on a farm in the North Country, Blake and his wife Carmen have raised their three sons on the Twin Mill Farm in Lisbon, growing the farm to 500 head of cattle. Blake and Carmen also started

The Jules of Life Foundation, which provides resources and support to North Country families battling pediatric cancer. For the past 10 years, Blake has served as the Vice Chair of the Cooperative Board of Agri-Mark where he represented the interests of farmers from across the region. He is a former member of the Lisbon Central School Board, and was a longtime junior varsity basketball coach.