

HE NAMED THE DEEP STATE. THEN HE PROTECTED IT.

Bob Onder on the Epstein Files — A Four-Act Record
Fraser for Congress | Missouri District 3 | August 4, 2026 Primary

The deep state he named is still protected. He didn't find his courage. He was given permission. The files are still redacted. The client list is still hidden.

Bob Onder told Missouri voters on radio and television that the delays releasing the Epstein documents were caused by “deep state insiders.” Two months later he was one signature away from forcing full transparency. He chose not to sign. He waited for permission from the same system he said he was fighting. He got permission — and voted with 426 others after the moment had passed. The client list is still hidden. He has said nothing since.

HIS OWN WORDS VS. HIS RECORD

WHAT HE SAID	WHAT HE DID
<p>“Deep state insiders control the levers of power.”</p> <p>“If you're wealthy enough, powerful enough, well-connected enough, you can get away with anything.”</p> <p>Source: <i>Real America's Voice / KWOS</i>, July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Did not sign the discharge petition for 71 days✗ Did not respond when the Missouri Independent asked✓ Voted yes only after given permission (427-1)✗ Never demanded the full client list after redacted release✗ Complete silence ever since

THE COMPLETE DOCUMENTED TIMELINE

Date	What Happened	Source
July 2025	● Onder tells KWOS radio (John Marsh) and Real America's Voice panel that Epstein delays are 'indicative of deep state influence' and calls on AG Bondi to release the files. Also says: 'If you're wealthy enough, powerful enough, well-connected enough, you can get away with anything.'	<i>Missouri Independent</i> , Sept. 29, 2025; <i>KWOS</i> (kwos.com); <i>Real America's Voice</i> panel (x.com/RealAmVoice/status/1945096168318345524)
Sept. 2, 2025	Discharge petition filed by Rep. Thomas Massie. 214 Democrats + 4 Republicans sign (Massie, Greene, Boebert, Mace). Petition sits at 217 — one short of the 218 needed to force a House vote.	clerk.house.gov/DischargePetition/2025090209
Sept. 23, 2025	Arizona voters elect Adelita Grijalva to fill a vacant seat. Both Grijalva and her Republican opponent had pledged to sign. The 218th signature is one week away.	<i>Missouri Independent</i> , Sept. 29, 2025 (Rudi Keller)
Sept. 24, 2025	Rep. Massie confirms Republican leaders 'actually threatened them politically, not physically' — referring to the four Republicans who signed. Speaker Johnson and 'the powers that be in DC are in full panic.'	<i>Semafor</i> , Sept. 24, 2025 (semafor.com/article/09/24/2025/...)

Date	What Happened	Source
Sept. 26, 2025	● Rep. Pat Ryan's press release documents that an unnamed administration official warned signing the petition would be 'a very hostile act to the administration.' Onder does not sign. The Missouri Independent contacts Onder's office. No response.	<i>patryan.house.gov, Sept. 26, 2025; Missouri Independent, Sept. 29, 2025</i>
Sept. 29, 2025	Missouri Independent publishes full story. Onder's office did not respond to their inquiry. Most Missouri Republicans stayed silent on the discharge petition.	<i>missouriindependent.com/2025/09/29/missouris-republican-members-of-congress-mostly-mum-on-epstein-discharge-petition</i>
Nov. 12, 2025	Grijalva is sworn in and becomes the 218th signature. The petition is complete.	<i>Missouri Independent</i>
Nov. 18, 2025	● Administration signals approval. The House votes 427-1 on Roll Call 289. Onder votes YES — with 426 other members — after the moment has passed. He did not find his courage. He was given permission.	<i>clerk.house.gov RC 289, Nov. 18, 2025</i>
Dec. 19, 2025	● Files released — heavily redacted. The client list is never released. No investigations announced. No prosecutions.	<i>DOJ release, Dec. 19, 2025</i>
Dec. 2025 – today	● A search of onder.house.gov finds no follow-up statement from Representative Onder demanding the full client list or calling for investigations. Complete silence after his yes vote.	<i>onder.house.gov (verified June 2026)</i>

THE FOUR-ACT RECORD IN DETAIL

ACT 1 — HE CALLED IT THE DEEP STATE (July 2025)

On a Real America's Voice panel in July 2025, Onder said the delays releasing the Epstein documents were a symptom of "this idea that 'deep state' insiders control the levers of power."

On KWOS radio in Jefferson City — the John Marsh show — Onder joined

Sources: Missouri Independent, Sept. 29, 2025 (Rudi Keller) — [missouriindependent.com/2025/09/29/...](https://missouriindependent.com/2025/09/29/) | KWOS News Radio (John Marsh) — kwos.com/two-missouri-congressmen-says-its-time-for-the-ag-to-release-the-epstein-documents | Real America's Voice panel, July 2025 — x.com/RealAmVoice/status/1945096168318345524

ACT 2 — ONE SIGNATURE AWAY. HE DID NOT SIGN. (Sept. 2 – Nov. 12, 2025 — 71 days)

The discharge petition sat at 217 signatures for 71 days. One signature needed. Any Republican could have been the 218th. Onder was in the building every day Congress was in session. He did not sign.

Why? An unnamed administration official warned that signing would be "a very hostile act to the administration." Rep. Massie confirmed that Republican leaders "actually threatened them politically, not physically." Onder obeyed the unnamed official. He did not sign.

When the Missouri Independent contacted Onder's office for comment, his office did not respond.

Sources: patryan.house.gov, Sept. 26, 2025 (hostile act warning documented) | Semafor, Sept. 24, 2025 — semafor.com/article/09/24/2025/massie-republican-leaders-threatened-supporters-of-push-to-release-epstein-files | Missouri Independent, Sept. 29, 2025 (Rudi Keller)

ACT 3 — GIVEN PERMISSION. VOTED YES. (November 18, 2025)

On November 18, 2025, after the administration signaled approval, the House voted 427-1 on Roll Call 289. Onder voted yes — with 426 other members.

He did not find his courage. He was given permission.

Source: clerk.house.gov, Roll Call 289, November 18, 2025 — clerk.house.gov/Votes/2025289

ACT 4 — THE FILES ARE STILL NOT FULLY RELEASED. HE IS SILENT. (December 2025 – Today)

The files were released December 19, 2025 — heavily redacted. The client list was never released. No investigations were announced. No prosecutions followed.

A search of onder.house.gov as of June 2026 found no follow-up statement from Representative Onder — no demand for the full client list, no call for investigations, no acknowledgment that the release was inadequate. Complete silence after his yes vote.

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THE REPUBLICANS WHO DID FIND THEIR COURAGE

Four Republicans signed the discharge petition despite political threats:

Republican	What They Did
Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)	Filed the petition. Confirmed Republican leaders 'actually threatened them politically.'
Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)	Signed. Called the unnamed official who threatened members 'a real coward.' Said: 'They didn't get me elected. I do not work for you; I work for my district.'
Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)	Signed despite political threats.
Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)	Signed despite political threats.

Bob Onder was not among them. He was one signature away. He chose not to be the 218th.

JOHN FRASER'S POSITION

"I would have been signature number 5. Not 218. The victims of Jeffrey Epstein deserve full transparency — not a heavily redacted document released only after political permission was granted. The client list should be released. There should be investigations. There should be prosecutions. Bob Onder called it the deep state in his own words. The difference between us is I wouldn't have waited to be told it was safe to say so."

ALL SOURCES — FULLY VERIFIED

Source	URL / Reference
Missouri Independent (primary)	missouriindependent.com/2025/09/29/missouris-republican-members-of-congress-mostly-mum-on-epstein-discharge-petition
KWOS Radio / John Marsh	kwos.com/two-missouri-congressmen-says-its-time-for-the-ag-to-release-the-epstein-documents
Real America's Voice panel	x.com/RealAmVoice/status/1945096168318345524 (July 2025)
Rep. Pat Ryan press release	patryan.house.gov — Sept. 26, 2025 (hostile act warning documented)
Semafor — political threats	semafor.com/article/09/24/2025/massie-republican-leaders-threatened-supporters-of-push-to-release-epstein-files
Discharge petition record	clerk.house.gov/DischargePetition/2025090209
Roll Call 289 — Nov. 18, 2025	clerk.house.gov/Votes/2025289 (427-1 vote, Onder voted yes)
Onder.house.gov search	onder.house.gov/media — no follow-up statements (verified June 2026)

Source	URL / Reference
KSDK News	ksdk.com/article/news/politics/missouris-republican-members-congress-epstein-discharge-petition
Sedalia Democrat	sedaliademocrat.com/stories/missouris-republican-congress-members-mostly-mum-on-epstein-discharge-petition,49775

Fraser for Congress | MO District 3 | August 4, 2026 Primary | 2615 Hillshire Dr., Columbia, MO 65203 | fraserforcongress.com