



Republican Party of Virginia
www.rpv.org

October 28, 2015

Mark J Berg
317 Greenfield Avenue
Winchester, VA 22602

Dear Mark,

Recently, a write-in effort has been waged against the Republican nominee in the 29th House of Delegates District, Chris Collins. As I am sure you are aware, a group of individuals and a PAC are advocating that voters write your name in instead of the properly selected Republican nominee. As of the time of the sending of this letter, there is no evidence the Party can locate you publicly condemning or repudiating this write-in effort.

Tenth Congressional District Chairwoman Jo Thoburn requested guidance from RPV's legal counsel to see if allowing one's name to be used in a write-in effort would constitute a violation of Article VII, Section C of our Party Plan. The text of the second paragraph of the relevant portion of the plan is below:

A member of an Official Committee is held to a higher standard of support for nominees of the Republican Party than an individual who merely participates in a mass meeting, party canvass, convention, or primary. Therefore, a member of an Official Committee is deemed to have resigned his Committee position if he (a) makes a reportable contribution to and/or (b) allows his name to be publicly used by and/or (c) makes a written or other public statement in support of a candidate in opposition to a Republican nominee in a Virginia General or Special Election. Such member may be re-instated by a majority vote of the other members of the Committee.

It is the opinion of our legal counsel that allowing your name to be used in a write-in campaign constitutes a violation. Unfortunately, I have to concur with his assessment, as members of State Central are held to the highest standard of conduct and must be above reproach when it comes to supporting our nominees.

Given the unique circumstances, the primary campaign with Mr. Collins and the current situation, I believe it is only fair that you have an opportunity to disavow the write-in effort. I would suggest a press release from the RPV wherein you are quoted

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disavowing the write-in campaign. However, any of the following actions will be considered public: an op-ed or letter to the editor published in any of the local papers of record and/or blog, a social media posting available to the public or an email sent to your constituents or Party officials.

Since we are so close to the election, we unfortunately have to act now if we are to rectify this situation. Therefore, I need you to agree to publicly repudiate the write-in effort and ask for the organizers to stop using your name by Saturday October 31st, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Otherwise, you will be deemed to have resigned from the State Central Committee, the Tenth District Republican Committee and the Frederick County Republican Committee under Article VII, Section C.

To be clear, I cannot force you to support Chris Collins despite the fact that I believe members of our Party must get behind our nominees in the General Election regardless of the circumstances. However, as a member of the General Assembly, a member of the State Central committee and as a strong, conservative Republican, I am asking you to do the right thing and follow the Party Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Whitbeck, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John C. Whitbeck, Jr.
Chairman
Republican Party of Virginia