

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 5:04 PM
To: scdcce@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: SCDC Board: PDC complaint filed

Dear Executive Board Members,

Several people have suggested that we have a unified message at the Legacy Dinner for anyone who raises inquiries regarding the PDC complaint. It is a good suggestion. I've struggled to think about how best to do this, considering that it is a festive event and I don't want distractions. At the same time, I know that ignoring things can also make them seem bigger. It's also challenging that we do not seem to be a unified board at times. I'm okay with differences of opinion, as it makes us stronger. But I hope that at this point we can agree on the approach that is best for the party and the people we are trying to help, while we sort everything out.

It is my hope that we can all convey reassurance to those who seek it. Here is my suggestion on how we do this:

First, please understand that a complaint is only a complaint, and nothing else. I can file a complaint alleging that you owe me a billion dollars; this doesn't make it true. The complaint against us is clearly overblown and often straight-up false. Yes, some PDC reports were untimely and/or incomplete, but anyone who was around last year can tell that the majority of the complaint is just fanciful. The complaint repeatedly acknowledges that it is based only on suspicions, and alleges an intent to deceive or falsify that simply was not there. It was written to get media attention, not for accuracy.

Second, consider the source and motivation. Mr. Morgan is or was a director of the Freedom Foundation, a horrendous anti-labor organization that is constantly being sued for its legal violations. One of his professed goals is to file claims against as many democratic candidates and organizations as possible to show that "everybody does it" and that the whole PDC system is impossible to comply with. So he has filed a huge number of complaints, including one against my campaign for county commissioner. It is likely that Mr. Morgan chose to target us largely because of me—I am the president of the NW Accountability Project, and one of our main functions is to hold groups like the Freedom Foundation accountable when they violate PDC rules, so I have filed a number of PDC complaints against it, so he has been retaliating against me. I'm glad I got to experience the process up close. It was nerve-wracking at first to see seven different claims against me. But the PDC went through each one carefully, allowed me to explain, and it was all resolved in my favor. There were some areas where what I did wasn't perfect, but they kept intent in mind and allowed me to correct mistakes where possible rather than punish me for it. And you know what? The PDC did the same for the Freedom Foundation: most of the complaints I filed against them did not result in any sanction, even when I thought they would. This is because the main goal of the PDC is to get people in compliance, not to dole out punishment. So I look forward to it helping us get in compliance.

Finally, please be reassured that we have neutral third parties finally helping us put this to bed. Whatever views you hold, and whatever result you hope to come from this process, I can firmly reassure you that this will be a transparent process and the facts will dictate the outcome. The audit committee, as well as the PDC, will conduct fulsome inquiries into the facts and recommend appropriate corrective action if necessary. So everyone has reason to be optimistic—we'll have all the details, from independent sources, allowing us to fix things that need to be fixed and move on with better systems in place.

I have heard very few concerns about the PDC complaint from the general public, even after the article in the paper. The GOP hasn't even brought it up. Only one donor expressed concern to me and he was very reassured once he learned more. I don't expect a lot of people to bring it up tomorrow, and I'm not going to distract from our amazing guests, candidates, and speakers by talking about it from the stage. If someone raises it with you during the evening, I hope you can provide reassurance that this is part of the political process and that it's all going to be resolved and put behind us soon. Our candidates and causes need this from us.

Thanks,
Andrew