

Dear Governor Haley,

Business As Usual or Something Really Different?

That is what the 65% of the INDEPENDENT Voters of America (who voted for Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump) want to know? We are so, so tired of living in the DIVIDED STATES of AMERICA created by the likes of Nancy Pelosi, Mitch McConnell, Harry Reid & Paul Ryan. We want something DIFFERENT! We want to be Fairly Represented by the people we elect!

Those of us who didn't vote for Donald Trump (I think) are willing to give him a chance! But we need to see a Sign of Moderation, not the same extremist bullshit we've had for the last 20 years. And so far you and Mitt Romney are the only signs that tell us maybe Donald Trump is not just another "political hack" hired to do the bidding of the extremists (who have taken over the real) Republican Party and that things might be different.

What this country does NOT need now is the appointment of a right wing judicial activist Supreme Court nominee! Such a nomination will be all the evidence "we" need to know Mr Trump is NOT the change agent he claims to be and that "we" need to oppose everything he does from that point on. We are looking for moderation . . . and INCLUSION.

My suggestion for Mr. Trump is that he re-submit the name of Merrick Garland as the nominee for Supreme Court Justice. Merrick Garland is NOT an activist Judge but a "judicial moderate" worthy of consideration for the Supreme Court on at least two previous occasions. He has always been considered to be a well qualified "consensus nominee" by both parties (with plenty of experience in criminal & terrorist cases needed more than ever in today's world) . . . until the partisan Republican extremists decided "not to do their job" by not allowing hearings or an up or down vote as defined by the Constitution (totally unacceptable).

Nominating Merrick Garland would be an "everyone wins" kind of move. It would be the first gesture of reaching across party lines since the Newt Gingrich/Bill Clinton "showdown" defined this extreme partisan divide we now call democracy. The media and pundits would take pause because they would not know what to make of such a nomination. The Hillary supporters might stop panicking and decide that a "wait and see" perspective may be a better way to view Donald Trump (& life in general). And finally, Mr Trump would have an opportunity to demonstrate to Grassley, McConnell and other party extremists that He will be the one in charge, not them. And given that Mr. Trump will have at least two (maybe three) more opportunities to nominate his own Justices over the next 8 years, the good will generated by nominating a centrist Justice like Merrick Garland now, will be priceless.

In Donald Trump's acceptance speech, he said he was "reaching out to ALL Americans for 'suggestions and guidance' so we can work together to unify our great nation". I am sending this suggestion to you in the hope that you will pass it along to Mr. Trump. I have little faith that my suggestion would make it through to Mr a Trump otherwise.

Thanks for taking the time to read this,

Jim Hadgraft
