

Tom Vessella
6535 25 Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117
July 30, 2016

Mr. Priebus,

Thank you for the GOP fundraising letter. Perhaps at a different time, I would have considered donating. But as long as the Republican Party fails to reject figures like Donald Trump, support from younger libertarian minded conservatives like myself will not be forthcoming. Tariffs, cronyism, racism, violence—since when are these the principles of free market conservatives? The Republican Party is naïve if it doesn't see comparisons in Trump's rhetoric to historic authoritarian movements in countries ranging from Argentina to Germany. So let me be clear: I would rather see decades of Democratic Party rule than to see the United States turn toward the "law and order" authoritarianism advanced by Trump campaign.

Perhaps this is a good opportunity to reflect on how the Republican Party has cultivated this Trumpist ideology. Absent a genuine effort to modernize the party platform, I fail to see how the party will remain nationally relevant. Right now, the Republican Party is an embarrassment to reasonable men and women who take pride in conservatism, decency, and freedom. Donald Trump is offensive to my values as a human being and my Methodist/Presbyterian upbringing. Any Republican politician that exhibits such exceptionally poor judgment to support Mr. Trump, placing our democracy at risk over short-term party gains, will never receive any support from me for the remainder of his/her political career.

Given your strong support of Mr. Trump from the beginning of his campaign, I can only conclude that you genuinely prefer this ideology, or that you were too cowardly to stop it. Either way, I look forward to your eventual resignation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Vessella', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Vessella

CC:

Governor Robert Bentley
Governor Doug Ducey
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Governor Rick Scott
Governor Nathan Deal
Governor C.L "Butch" Otter
Governor Bruce Rauner
Governor Mike Pence

Governor Terry Branstad
Governor Sam Brownback
Governor Matt Bevin
Governor Paul LePage
Governor Larry Hogan
Governor Charlie Baker
Governor Rick Snyder
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