

WALT MINNICK
Right for Idaho

July 19, 2010

Amy Kremer
Co-Chair
Tea Party Express
Our Country Deserves Better PAC
30151 Tomas
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Dear Ms. Kremer:

I am writing regarding The Tea Party Express endorsement of my re-election campaign.

I appreciate your recognition of my strong and continued stance against rising federal spending, it's impact on our federal deficit and the terrible consequences it poses to our country's way of life. Our common ground on fiscal matters sends a strong message that fiscal responsibility is not a partisan issue.

Although I have not been a Congressman long, I have been a businessman for most of my life. In business you succeed by seeking common ground wherever you can with whoever you can. That's one reason why my interaction with the grassroots Tea Party movement here in Idaho has been very positive. I find the vast majority of their members to be cordial, polite and sincere. While they disagree strongly with the president and his policies, their passions tend to be focused on issues and not on personalities.

Of course, in any movement there are those who take things too far and say or do hateful, hurtful things which harm the cause of the entire group. However, those who rise to or claim leadership in those movements have an obligation to lead with a respect for the movement and its members, and thus be responsible with words and actions.

The reprehensible blog post by your spokesman was clearly in poor taste. Whatever his reasons for writing it, his words reflect on all of those associated with the Tea Party movement. The proper response to his perceived slight on the issue of race was not to use inflammatory sarcasm. Rather, I would have expected your organization to instead highlight the Tea Party I know, the one with good, decent folks who care very much about the serious financial issues facing our nation and who themselves would find Mr. Williams' blog post distasteful.

Instead, the Tea Party Express has apparently decided to stand by Mr. Williams and support him in his own contention that he did nothing wrong. I cannot agree with that course of action. Since the Tea Party Express refuses to reject and rebuke Mr. Williams, I have no choice but to decline your endorsement.

I thank you very sincerely for your kind words about my work as a Congressman, and hope that your group can see the error of its ways.

Sincerely,



Congressman Walt Minnick

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Paid for by Minnick for Congress