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December 30, 2021

An Open letter to Ohio Republican Leaders

Dear Fellow Republicans of Ohio:

Mark Twain once observed that “*figures don’t lie; but liars figure*”. There could hardly be any more apt a description for the shameless misrepresentations and out right lies being perpetrated against the Ohio Republican State Central Committee (hereafter “SCC”) and against the duly elected State Chairman and Treasurer of the Ohio Republican Party ~ purely for the sake of advancing a politically motivated and false narrative. With this in mind, please indulge my thoughts on all of this, as follows:

Intentionally Frivolous Law Suit Filed Against ORP

In a law suit filed in Franklin County on November 29, 2021 against the entire SCC, the Party Chairman and the Party Treasurer, five plaintiffs have: 1) purposely advanced the false and absurd allegation that there is “*more than \$3 Million missing*” from the Party; 2) flagrantly mischaracterized the operating authority which the SCC Permanent Rules grant to the State Party Chairman, intending to strip the Chairman of his authority to lead; 3) repeatedly uttered patently false representations of the SCC’s Permanent Rules, citing “provisions” in the Rules (and purportedly in state law) that simply do not exist; and 4) sought to supplant and mischaracterize Ohio campaign finance laws governing state candidate funds with the plaintiffs’ own distorted and ulterior notions of same - notions which, if they prevailed, would be to the detriment of *every* Republican state official in Ohio.

False Charges of Accounting Irregularities

At the very core of the Franklin County lawsuit referenced above are the purposely false charges and reckless innuendo that “financial irregularities” exist at the SCC . . . extending back to the 2017 time frame when Jane Timken was elected State Republican Chairman.

My fellow Republicans, the *only* real irregularities that have existed at SCC in recent years were those uncovered by . . . and cleaned up by . . . Jane Timken. In fact, it was Jane Timken that inherited a Party that was so broke it could barely meet payroll in her first year as Party chairman, a time period during which she worked without compensation.

Jane Timken did not point fingers of blame or curse the darkness over the mess she had inherited. Rather, she immediately set out to raise a record amount of funds to bail out the Party. She simultaneously put together one of the most successful state party organizations in the nation, presiding over the election of Republicans in *every* state office in Ohio while increasing the margins of control in both houses of the General Assembly. Is this really the record that her critics want to debate?

Minor Accounting Errors Hardly Equate to a "Crisis"

There have been minor internal account coding errors that, for example, inadvertently placed a paid Party invoice into the accounts receivable ledger of the Party's internal balance sheet. Every dime of that paid invoice, however, has been properly accounted for by State Chairman Bob Paduchik. There are no missing funds here. Yet this "mountain-made-of-a-mole-hill" issue keeps getting resurrected and "leaked" to adversarial news sources by a self-proclaimed "whistleblower" . . . who decries "foul play" over the most inconsequential of trivialities while running about threatening SCC members with "personal fiduciary liability". It's all HOGWASH.

Another of the false and misleading claims being alleged is that "there has not been a '*required* annual audit' of the Party finances in 16 years". Again, the allegation is false. In the first place, there is no provision in the SCC Permanent Rules *requiring* an annual audit. And, the facts of the matter are that Jane Timken commissioned a comprehensive, thirty-two page independent fiscal review in 2017 when she was first elected State Republican Chairman. Earlier this year, Party Chairman Paduchik tried to have an audit conducted, but our so called "whistleblower" caused the firm we commissioned to abruptly terminate the audit because of the threats being leveled at them by, you guessed it – the "whistleblower" himself . . . at great cost to the Party.

And finally, the false claim that the Party's balance sheet "net equity" has somehow magically "changed" . . . which occurs every quarter and every year-end . . . reflects a complete and total ignorance as to how a cash-based accounting model works, the very model that has been in place and has been, in effect, under state audit by the Ohio Secretary of State and the Federal Elections Commission going back decades. Clearly, we don't have a "whistleblower" on the lose, but rather a two bit con artist who cannot be trusted to the tell the truth.

Time to Unite Behind Chairman Paduchik

So after months, now, of idiotic chain letters and repetitious text messages and phone calls in the middle of night and SCC meetings that have been hijacked and otherwise disrupted by invited hecklers . . . many from and by

individuals that are not even registered Republicans . . . it is time to unite behind our duly elected State Party Chairman Bob Paduchik.

Chairman Paduchik has dedicated his life to the work of electing conservatives to office. Frankly, we are blessed to have him at the helm. He was the head of President Donald Trump's 2020 campaign in Ohio, garnering the single largest voter turnout for a presidential candidate in Ohio history. He is a former Co-Chair of the RNC. Who better to lead this Party at this point in time?

Ironically, Chairman Paduchik has adopted a host of operating reforms to address concerns raised by the few critics he has. But I doubt anybody could ever satiate their manufactured grievances as they change by the day. Nobody need wonder what their real agenda is. It is to undermine and discredit and derail something they cannot control – the State Central Committee.

And so my fellow Republicans, *now* is the time to unite behind the state Republican Party and its Chairman. . . publically, with vigor and conviction. This coming year will be critical to the future of our state and of our nation. Under Chairman Bob Paduchik's able leadership, we can keep Ohio moving forward with sound, conservative Republican leadership. We need to take up the important business of the Party . . . that of electing Republicans to office . . . starting at the next State Central Committee meeting on February 4th.

If you have any questions about any of this, please feel free to contact me. Otherwise, let me be one of the first to wish you and your family all of the best for a bright, healthful and Republican new year!

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