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Raymond Buckley, Chair

April 7, 2021

Chairman Stephen Stepanek & Vice Chair Pamela Tucker  
New Hampshire Republican State Committee  
10 Water Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Stephen Stepanek and Vice Chair Pamela Tucker,

After reading the letter you sent to New Hampshire Democrats last week regarding the For the People Act, it became clear to me that you have a profound misunderstanding of what this legislation does. I'm happy to provide you with information that will undoubtedly make it clear to you that this legislation has nothing to do with the Presidential primary calendar (which is set by states and political parties -- not the federal government), and everything to do with stopping billionaires from buying elections -- which Granite Staters and Americans overwhelmingly support and is a critically important task that we all must get behind.

First, anyone who reads the For the People Act understands that it is about combating the dual crises facing our election systems -- corruption and voter suppression. New Hampshire Democrats are so proud of Senator Shaheen, Senator Hassan, Congresswoman Kuster, and Congressman Pappas for their hard work and support of this powerfully important legislation that will rein in the influence of corporations and billionaires in U.S. elections while cracking down on unethical behavior by lawmakers.

Among provisions that ensure that our elections are free and fair, the For the People Act takes common-sense steps to combat corruption, including making it illegal for lawmakers to take action to benefit themselves or their family members' financial interest, banning lawmakers from sitting on corporate boards, blocking lawmakers from using taxpayer dollars to settle lawsuits with their employees, and investing in cybersecurity and traditional security to protect American elections. Americans agree that these are measures that must be taken. In fact, 67 percent of Americans -- including a majority of Republicans and independents -- support the For the People Act. Nowhere in the For the People Act does it mention changing the Presidential primary calendar.

Second, it's alarming that not only have you clearly decided not to take the due diligence in learning about this bill before getting in line with special interests and Washington Republicans who oppose it, but you invited Tommy Hicks, an individual who is the chair of the dark money group America First Policies, to New Hampshire and stood by while he spread further misinformation about this bill. It is no surprise that America First Policies, the dark money group Hicks chairs, opposes this legislation. It is heavily funded by big pharma, tobacco, and fossil fuel groups. Hicks and other Washington Republicans oppose the For the People Act because it would ensure dark money groups like his cannot interfere in our elections.

New Hampshire's First-in-the-Nation Primary was founded on the premise that the people, not backroom dealmakers, should decide who would represent their parties on the Presidential ballot. The For the People Act does not touch the Presidential primary calendar. In fact, it honors the traditions of the New Hampshire First-in-the-Nation Primary and, in many ways, reinvigorates it -- by removing power from billionaires and shadowy dark money groups and returning it to the people who show up at Town Halls to listen to the candidates debate ideas.

I hope that you will stand with us and support this effort to restore power to voters and the New Hampshire Primary -- instead of doing the bidding of big corporations and billionaires by spreading disinformation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Raymond Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a double underline at the end.

Raymond Buckley