

From: eva.barboni@gmail.com on behalf of Jeff Greene For Florida (Press) [press@jeffgreene.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Bender, Michael (CNI-Palm Beach)
Subject: A career politician failing Florida



Meek: A career politician failing Florida

Greene campaign consultant Paul Blank issued the following statement in response to the Meek campaign's latest smear attacks:

"The Washington logic of the memo put out by the Meek campaign today demonstrates how desperate a career politician like Meek can become and why promoting him to higher office after his years of failure would be a mistake for Florida.

Meek can't run on his failed record so he and his campaign have resorted to smears and the usual attack politics.

The truth is that Kendrick Meek is exactly the kind of career politician who created the mess we're in. He came to office through a back room deal and has been in the pocket of special interests ever since.

Meek's latest memo makes the absurd claim that Jeff Greene is responsible for the economic crisis. Let me be clear: Not a single Florida homeowner has lost a penny because of Jeff's investments. But in the years that Kendrick Meek has been in office almost 700,000 more Floridians have lost their jobs. And while Floridians were facing foreclosure because of bad loans, Kendrick Meek and his buddies were taking campaign contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and failing to regulate them to protect homeowners.

He wants Florida voters to trust him to get us out of this mess when he stood by and watched and lined his campaign pockets with special interest money while our economy plummeted? Ridiculous.

Unlike Kendrick Meek - whose contributor list reads like a who's who of Washington insiders and lobbyists - Jeff Greene won't take a penny of special interest money.

Instead of absurd attacks and smears -- Jeff Greene is waging a campaign of ideas, to shake up Washington, create jobs, invest in green technology and get results by putting Florida first -- not the special interests who have enough career politicians in Washington to help them."

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The facts on Kendrick Meek:

1. Meek voted against regulating credit default swaps 4 times in 2009 alone.
[Congressional Record, HR 4173]

2. Meek and his PAC received contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, including a \$2,500 contribution from Fannie Mae's PAC as late as 2008. And while Meek was chair, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation received \$100,000 from both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. [Open Secrets, Federal Election Commission] [Bloomberg News, 9/9/2008]

3. Meek has made a habit of securing earmarks for campaign contributors. In 2009 he asked for \$19 million in earmarks for five for-profit companies, including \$6.7 million for Aqua Sciences, whose CEO and Washington lobbyist contributed at least \$3,700 to Meek's campaign and PAC. And in 2006, he pushed a \$4 million earmark for the failed Poinciana Industrial Park, whose developer Dennis Stackhouse gave Meek's mother a luxury car and paid her at least \$40,000 in consulting fees. [Miami Herald, 3/23/2010]

4. While Meek has been sitting in Washington lining his campaign's pockets with special interest money, nearly 700,000 Floridians have lost their jobs. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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