

To Rick Scott, candidate for Governor in the Republican Primary of Florida
2010

June 24,

On Saturday, June 12, 2010, your campaign participated in the Congressional District 1 Whistle Stop Tour through the Florida Panhandle. As you can see from the e-mail below, while at a stop in Washington County, a member of the your campaign verbally and physically assaulted Washington County REC Chairman Jennifer Bau and one of her REC members— due to some impatience with the way the event agenda was planned. Our Republican Party stands for values, among those values is respect, and particularly in this part of the State, or any other part for that matter, Republican candidates and their staff don't so rudely disrespect another Republican like your staff did, and it is especially unseemly that you staff would treat a Republican woman leader in such a manner.

The members of our County Republican Executive Committees and the affiliated clubs throughout Florida are hard working Republicans, and treating anyone of them in this manner is uncalled for, completely rude, and utterly unacceptable. This Whistle Stop Tour was an opportunity for you to speak with Northwest Floridians and to share your ideas with them, and you took advantage of the opportunity. Hearing about your staff treating fellow Republicans and grassroots leaders in this manner is extremely disappointing and appalling. It is unimaginable and unprecedented for a candidate for Governor to allow a campaign staff member to act so unprofessionally and disrespectful to a county leader. Surely this is not the manner with which Republicans throughout Florida should expect to be treated by the Rick Scott Campaign.

We call on you to take responsibility to amend this situation. In order to set things right, you should personally call Chairman Jennifer Bau and apologize for the offensive behavior committed by your campaign. You were a guest in Chairman Bau's county and she should been shown proper respect and courtesy. Your gracious behavior at our RPOF Quarterly meeting in Tampa last week-end is severely under-mined by this offensive treatment of grass-roots leaders like Chairman Bau.

Furthermore, the campaign staffer who committed these offenses should be fired and released from your campaign. If this staffer is to remain on your team, it is a sign that you do not respect your fellow Republicans, particularly our valued Republican women leaders whose efforts are a critically important asset in all our Republican races. It is disrespectful and an insult to every Florida Republican voter, that your staff treats them with such low regard. Is this a reflection of your values of the unimportance of Republican grass-roots, or merely a display of sexist attitudes toward Republican women leaders?

Mr. Scott, our grass-root leaders cannot be won to your campaign with advertising. Relationships built on respect are key to successful campaigns in Florida.

Sincerely,

Allen Cox, SCM, Gulf County

Message from Jennifer Bau:

Just wanted to let you all know that on the day of the Whistle Stop one of the campaign staffers for Rick Scott was extremely rude and aggressive to me and the other organizers of the event. He demanded that we start the event 15 minutes early, he told a Channel 7 reporter to hurry up with an interview with Congressman Putnam so we could get started early. I and others kept telling him that the event started at 9:00 and we were told that if we didn't introduce Mr. Scott immediately that he would just go up to the microphone and start talking. The staffer said they were in a hurry and that we needed to get the show on the road. The thing that was most disturbing was that the staffer repeatedly grabbed me by the arm as well as our MC's arm.

I have never been treated this way by a campaign before, and don't know if it was condoned by Mr. Scott or not, but this is no way to treat people especially those that have planned an event for you. I was very disappointed in the way the event was handled by his campaign. His advance person was extremely polite, but the staffer traveling with him was unlike anyone I have ever encountered in all the campaigns I have dealt with. When they left no one even said thank you. I did get an email thank you a few days after the event. I hope this doesn't happen again.

Sincerely

Jennifer Bau