

Gerald Reynolds
Chairman
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20425

Dear Chairman Reynolds:

We are writing to you in our capacity as members of the Vermont State Advisory Committee (SAC). At this time, we wish to convey that we stand united in our request that you reappoint Curtiss Reed as Chairman of the Vermont SAC.

As you know, during the time that Mr. Reed served as chair, the SAC produced a comprehensive report addressing the effect of perceived racial profiling by state and local law enforcement officers. To have developed and seen through to successful resolution a report on a topic as politically charged and sensitive as racial profiling requires tact; the ability to engender trust and encourage openness; dedication; and the skills to advance the pursuit of knowledge and understanding in a manner that yield results rather than resistance. The leadership and tone set by Mr. Reed proved invaluable during this work and, we believe, earned the trust of those with whom we needed to interact, including members of the law enforcement officials across the state. And the report has already had a major favorable impact on our state.

It is our understanding that the Commission is seeking to remove Mr. Reed as chairman because of a letter he wrote to the *Brattleboro Reformer* in which he criticized certain messages used in a recent gubernatorial campaign. Mr. Reed took care to identify himself in a way that that did not state, or imply, any connection to the SAC or his chairmanship thereof. It is our view that to deny an individual the right to speak out, without retribution, as a private citizen regarding a matter that he perceived to be harmful to civil rights seems not only "wrong" but antithetical to the mission of the Commission.

We are enthusiastic, ready, willing, and able to begin work on our next project once our re-chartering is approved. We believe that we have shown ourselves able to work collectively and effectively to promote the Commission's goals and mission. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you reconsider your actions, reappoint Mr. Reed as chair, and permit us through re-chartering to continue promoting fairness and equality for all.

We thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Very truly yours,

Francine T. Bazluke
John Bloomer
Luther M. Brown
Ann Hagman Cardinal
Ellen Mercer Fallon
Leslie A. Holman
Gary Kowalski
Terrence D. Martin

Marion Milne
Cheryl Mitchell
Tara A. O'Brien
Eric D. Sakai
Stefanie Sidortsova
Diane Snelling
Tracey H. Tsugawa
Stewart Wood, Jr.

Cc: Abigail Thernstrom, Vice-chair
Martin Dannenfelser, Staff Director
Barbara de Laviez, Eastern Regional Office