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Congress of the United States  
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Washington, DC 20515

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AND SUPPLY CHAINS

June 26, 2024

Governor Josh Shapiro  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro,

When your Administration launched Pennsylvania's Election Threats Task Force this past February, Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt, who is tasked with overseeing the Task Force, said, "We take our responsibility as stewards of our democracy seriously and the Election Threats Task Force will ensure all levels of government are working together to combat misinformation, safeguard the rights of every citizen, and ensure this election is safe, secure, free, and fair."

In that vein, I write to inform you of a deceptive and illegal ad that has been running on social media platforms that was produced and paid for by a Political Action Committee named "Pennsylvania Values." The ad ran from June 20 to June 24, 2024, when Google removed the ad for violating their policy. The ad, which is a political public communication, is the epitome of misinformation and voter suppression. It intentionally and directly targets viewers (voters) and urges people to "Stand strong with President Trump against Mail-in Ballots." This messaging is intentionally meant to deceive Pennsylvania voters as President Trump strongly and publicly supports mail-in ballot initiatives. For example, the RNC, in coordination with the Trump Campaign, launched the "Bank Your Vote" program in June of 2023 to encourage early and mail-in balloting. This initiative was followed up just this month with the "Swamp the Vote USA," to bolster the previous message supporting early and mail-in balloting.

The clear and malicious intention of this ad is to dissuade Republican voters and all other voters who support Republican candidates in this November's election from utilizing mail-in balloting by wrongly stating the presumptive Republican nominee for president does not support voting by mail. The ad is a fraudulent device and contrivance designed and intended to impede, prevent, and interfere with Pennsylvanians' right to vote, specifically by urging such voters to refrain from casting a vote in the November election.

The "Pennsylvania Values" PAC clearly does not support President Trump or Republican candidates, as the group's previous spending has, in fact, been in opposition to GOP candidates. Most recently, the group ran a series of ads attacking Congressman Lou Barletta, the Republican nominee in Pennsylvania's 2018 Senate race.

This ad is blatant disinformation that maliciously and intentionally is intended to mislead voters and is illegal under Pennsylvania law. Specifically, it violates Section 3527, title 25, which states in part:

*“If any person shall prevent or attempt to...prevent [people] from voting or restrain...freedom of choice...or in any manner...prevent a free and fair primary or election, he shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars, or to undergo an imprisonment of not more than seven (7) years, or both, in the discretion of the court.”*

It also specifically violates Section 3547, Title 25, which states in part:

*“Any person or corporation who, directly or indirectly...(b) by abduction, duress or coercion, or any forcible or fraudulent device or contrivance, whatever, impedes, prevents, or otherwise interferes with the free exercise of the elective franchise. . . “shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree....” The sentence for a person or corporation convicted under this Section is “a fine not exceeding \$5,000...” “or such a person or the officers, directors or agents of a corporation responsible for the violation of this section shall be sentenced to imprisonment of not more than two (2) or both, in the discretion of the court.”*

As New York Attorney General Letitia James said, “Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy. Attempts to hinder voters from casting ballots by spreading misinformation is illegal and will not be tolerated.”

To that end, I hope your administration will not tolerate the dirty and illegal campaign tactics being deployed by the “Pennsylvania Values” PAC, which is registered in Lancaster, PA, and all of those who have conspired and acted in concert with it. Similar cases of unlawful election misinformation have been prosecuted in recent years, and I urge your Election Threats Task Force to launch an immediate investigation into this ad and the “Pennsylvania Values” PAC. Failure to do so would be an injustice to Pennsylvania voters.

When you launched the Election Threats Task Force, you stated “Pennsylvania is the birthplace of American democracy, and we are working to continue defending Pennsylvanians’ fundamental freedoms and ensure we have a free, fair, safe, secure election this November.” I wholeheartedly agree with you and urge you to uphold this sentiment and hold those responsible for this ad accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

Of the hundreds of thousands of views, this ad has likely dissuaded some not to vote by mail, or worse, to not vote at all. Damage to election integrity and confidence in the election process has been done. A strong response from your office condemning this attempt to suppress Trump votes is necessary to help restore voter confidence that has been eroded. Election integrity is paramount, and I believe we share the common objective of making that a reality in Pennsylvania. We must work together, in a non-partisan effort, to prevent the erosion of voter confidence in election outcomes from contaminating our voting process. A strong response from

you and Secretary Al Schmidt will show Pennsylvania citizens that your administration is committed to combating election law violations, regardless of party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Meuser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and last name "Meuser" clearly distinguishable.

Dan Meuser  
Pennsylvania's Ninth District

cc: Al Schmidt, Secretary of the Commonwealth