

February 22, 2020

Dear We the People

We are a small group of old white men, loosely connected by friendship and tightly bound by a deep love of America. We are unwilling to remain silent while Donald Trump scorns our values and corrupts our country. While "old white men" are on occasion profiled as supporters of the cult and culture of Trumpism, we reject its divisive tenets and affirm our belief that this nation can remain the beacon of liberty and hope for the oppressed it has been for more than two centuries if it lives up to its often proclaimed values. We add our voices to the groundswell demanding that our U.S. Senators and Members of Congress block Trump's attempt to replace our democracy with his autocracy. We demand that the "leaders" in whom we have placed our trust acknowledge the danger, and lead us into an election where we can stifle this threat. How much courage does it take for them to do the right thing? After all, they are Americans.

We identify ourselves as old white men, but we assert no claim to wisdom, or authority, or status, or entitlement to deference, or anything else, but ask for the respect due all American citizens who express their thoughts. We cherish our right to speak our minds, and ask that you give us your attention and help us in our effort. Donald Trump has deeply injured our country, and another term for him will result in irreparable damage to us all. He lies, refuses to produce documents, and does whatever he can to prevent We the People from learning what is happening in our government, because we would not approve. People ask: what is he hiding? We think they know: graft, corruption, self dealing, harm to our environment, threats to our security, and a contemptuous disregard for We the People. Our government is being betrayed by Trump. We the People must take it back from this incompetent aspiring autocrat. We will do that in November, but meanwhile Members of Congress must protect us from this clear and present danger until our ballots end the ongoing outrage.

We demand that our Members of Congress denounce the spreading corruption, proclaim their support for the civil servants and members of the military who have exposed the fraud and failure of the Trump administration by speaking truth to power, and reassert the independence of Congress and its status as an equal branch of government. We must live up to our ideals, restore our besmirched reputation with our allies, and show our adversaries that we are still Americans. We must demand that the Senate take up the many bills now awaiting its action for the benefit of We the People. We must demand that the senators do their jobs.

We make this statement for ourselves only, having no authorization to speak for others, but we know millions of our fellow citizens agree with us, and ask them to stand with us. A groundswell opposing Trump and Trumpism is growing. We want you to join it, to help wash away the stain which is disfiguring our society. We must end the siphoning of taxpayer dollars into Trump bank accounts, thwart attempts to steer government contracts to Trump family and cronies, and restore government of the people, by the people, for the people. We must bring this defilement of our nation out into the open, shed light on it, and purge it. In doing so we will be living up to the values that made us great. That is the American way.

We old white men believe most of our fellow Americans are dismayed by what Trump has done in his attempt to divide us and conquer us, and we refuse to let him succeed. We proclaim our solidarity with our fellow Americans of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin and ethnicity. Please join us in attempting to make a better world for us and our progeny. Most

of us are retired after lifetimes of work. Some of us are married, some of us are fathers, and some are grandfathers. We have little previous political experience, and differ in our political views, but we have always tried to cast intelligent votes. We believe that the United States of America is the greatest country on earth, but fear we may lose it.

Most of us are veterans of our armed forces, many having served in-country Vietnam and in other foreign lands. We are no longer in uniform, but we consider ourselves bound by our oaths to preserve, protect and defend our Constitution, which we hold to be our bulwark against authoritarianism. We share the belief that we have much to do to make America truly great; we must eradicate the corrosive influences of improper and unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin and ethnicity. We the People must acknowledge truth and stand for justice. We must try to mitigate the injury of climate change. We must reverse the growing gap of income and asset inequality. We must work so that all of us have access to good health care and a quality education. To realize our aspirations, we must first stop the subversion of our ideals and the corruption of our government. We will not kow-tow to Donald Trump. We are Americans.

Threats by a president against honest, dedicated and loyal public servants – military and civilian – must not be tolerated. We recognize that the men and women who spoke truth to power performed their duty to our country and deserve commendation and protection. The undermining of morale in the Department of Justice and the Department of State hurts all of us. Diverting money from military housing and other military priorities to fund a section of a wall on our southern border is wasteful and harmful to our security. Vacuous photo ops and fawning press conferences with some of the world's most oppressive dictators are not a substitute for thoughtful foreign policy. Attacks on the responsible journalists who inform us of the truth must stop. We the People must demand that our representatives in Congress speak out to support those wrongfully threatened by the president. We must demand that the appropriate Members of Congress be informed of the content, in detail, of Trump's conversations with foreign leaders, and in particular Putin and Kim. They are bad men, and covert deals with them are a threat to us.

We the People demand honest government. Our representatives must confront Trump, and restrain him and his cronies until we can wrest power away from them. Trump is not our king, and we will not allow him to abuse us any longer. We ask you to join our friends and neighbors, and our fellow citizens across the country, in the movement to save our republic. Sending a copy of this letter to Members of Congress, or making other clear statements of agreement, will help. There are many ways of assisting, but we believe taking a public stand is essential. We must keep informed through the responsible media, including our national treasure PBS. The great work by the true conservatives on the Lincoln Project merits support. The groundswell grows.

We the People will not watch in silence as our democracy dies! We the People are Americans!!

<i>/s/Harry McConnell</i>	<i>/s/Gary Anthes</i>	<i>/s/Michael Roy</i>	<i>/s/Michael Peters</i>	<i>/s/Bill Stanard</i>
Harry McConnell	Gary Anthes	Michael Roy	Michael Peters	Bill Stanard
Florida	Virginia	California	California	Missouri

<i>/s/Larry Flick</i>	<i>/s/Mead Cain</i>	<i>/s/John Koch</i>	<i>/s/Larry Stout</i>	<i>/s/James Walsh</i>
Larry Flick	Mead Cain	John Koch	Larry Stout	James Walsh
Oregon	New York	Washington	Florida	Maryland