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Subject: SEC Update

SEC Members -

Like you, I have been reading the emails, hearing the rumors and talking to my fellow members the past few days about the race for chairman and the general state of the party.

Friends, I have to tell you that I am disappointed in what has happened in this campaign. I thought these kinds of tactics were the ones democrats use when they want to win. I'm sad to see our people can do the same.

I read Mark Winslow's email yesterday and as Chairman of the Finance Committee, it's my job to provide you with important information about one of his points. In his email, Mark mentioned a conference call Robin had with my committee and the members of the Administrative Committee to go over the party's current situation and deal with an issue that we didn't expect. I am pleased to tell you the party's finances are fine, but could be better and it falls to me to tell you why.

Since the supporters of Chris Devaney have taken to questioning Robin's management of the party, I feel it's my duty to defend her actions, the integrity of my committee and make sure you know the truth. The call we had was to inform the members of the two committees of serious accounting errors that occurred in 2006, under Mr. Devaney's watch as Executive Director of the party.

The first error was the placement of nearly \$76,000 of contributions into the wrong accounts. In order to avoid a large fine from the Federal Election Commission, Robin chose to do the right thing and refund the money to the contributors – without taking out loans, knowing it would put a strain on the party. She should be praised for doing the right thing and for managing the party through such a large financial hit right after raising and spending a record amount for our state candidates in 2008. Mr. Devaney's supporters who are attacking Robin Smith need to take a look at their candidate and ask what happened on his watch. Robin has been gracious in keeping this information out of the chairman's debate, but you need to know the truth.

The second error involves the simple task of keeping good records. Robin and her staff have had to track down employees of the Victory operation from 2006 to have them fill out the employment forms that are required by the Federal Election Commission, two years after that campaign ended. These forms are required to prove compliance with Federal law and could have led to a fine approaching \$300,000. This is basic stuff, friends, and Mr. Devaney dropped the ball.

I wish we weren't forced to deal with this during an important debate over the future of the party, but I can't stand by and see a good chairman's integrity questioned in the name of winning a campaign. We're better than that. And folks, let's remember something here. Under Robin Smith's leadership we WON. It seems some people have already forgotten that fact.

I haven't talked to Robin but I'm sure she will answer any questions. Instead of listening to rumors and whispers, I encourage you to contact me or any member of the Administrative or Finance Committees if you have any questions.

For the good of our party,

Frank Colvett, Jr.
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TRP Finance Committee Chairman