

April 5, 2006

Mr. John Owen, Chairman  
Moore County Republican Party  
P.O. Box 2342  
Pinehurst, NC 28370

Dear John:

I was shocked to read in The Pilot newspaper that you suggest that people report Republican Party volunteers campaigning for Joe Boylan to the Moore County Sheriff's office.

To encourage people to call law enforcement upon volunteers exercising their first amendment rights is beyond the pale. These are the same volunteers who got George Bush elected in 2000 and 2004, Elizabeth Dole in 2002 and brought us close to having a Republican Speaker in 2002 until Richard Morgan undercut the Republican Caucus for his own self aggrandizement.

This intimidation tactic is exactly the type of behavior I would expect from Richard Morgan as he has exhibited his utter contempt for the free speech rights of anyone who opposes him.

As Speaker he denied the right of duly elected Members of the House to address the Assembly by refusing to recognize them to debate issues before the state. He abused his power against fellow Republicans and the Republican Party time and time again in order to appease his partner Democrat Speaker Jim Black. He has even threatened litigation in order to silence the North Carolina Republican Party.

Why did the Democrats, who had the clear majority, elect "Republican" Richard Morgan Speaker Pro Tem of the House? Why have the Democrats not recruited even token opposition for his seat since he and Jim Black cut the co-speaker deal in 2003?

The answer is apparent. He has sold out the Republican Party. That is why Republican leaders from across the state, including Moore County, have asked for a new Republican representative from Moore County.

Mr. John Owen  
April 5, 2006  
Page 2

Despite your public assertions that you are neutral in this race this blatant attempt to intimidate volunteers clearly exhibits your preferences. Your partiality is thinly veiled and it is in clear contradiction to the position taken by the Republican State Executive Committee.

You should immediately retract your unlawful statement and apologize to those who care enough about this state to campaign for Joe Boylan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ferrell Blount". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ferrell Blount  
Chairman