

July 6, 2018

California State Democratic Party
Credentials Committee
Lead Chairs:
Lara Larramendi
Michael Wagaman

Subject: Violation of Article II Section 9(b) and Article VIII Section 4(a) of the California Democratic Party State Bylaws – Challenge to remove DSCC members

Dear CADEM Credentials Committee Members,

Violation of Article II Section 9(b). It has come to our attention that a number of DSCC members have violated Article II Section 9 Paragraph b of the California Democratic Party State Bylaws by actively supporting a candidate for partisan office in the top two primary who is registered as other than Party Preference Democrat.

The Bylaws are extremely clear:

b. This Committee may remove any member if, during his/her term of membership, such member affiliates with or registers as other than Party Preference Democratic; publicly avows preference for another party; publicly advocates that the voters should not vote for the endorsed candidate of This Committee for any office; or who publicly gives support to or avows a preference for a candidate registered as other than Party Preference Democratic in the Voter nominated top two primary. (CDP Bylaws, Article II Section 9 (b))

The delegates in question are:

Jared Huffman, U.S. Representative, CA CD-02
Mike McGuire, California State Senator, CA SD-02
Jim Wood, California State Assemblyman, CA AD-02

1. Jared Huffman

The following is a March 24, 2018 announcement on a popular Humboldt County website, Kym Kemp, the Redheaded Blackbelt, including Congressman's comment:

<https://kymkemp.com/2018/03/24/congressman-huffman-endorses-ryan-sundberg-for-re-election-as-5th-district-supervisor>

“Supervisor Ryan Sundberg works closely with me on many issues vital to the North Coast including Klamath Dam removal, Trinity River restoration, and securing federal support for transportation projects, dredging, rural schools, tribal needs, and much more. He is dedicated and knowledgeable, and I support his reelection.” – Jared Huffman

The overwhelming majority of responses to this post correctly chastise Huffman and express their support for recruiting a new congressional candidate more in touch with Humboldt County for the next election cycle.

Lost Coast Outpost, Humboldt County's popular home page, also carried Sundberg's press release of the endorsement:

<https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2018/mar/24/congressman-huffman-endorses-ryan-sundberg-re-elec>

On March 25, 2018, the Tuluwat Examiner (TE) remarked on Congressman Huffman's endorsement in the aptly named "This Week's Local WTF! Moment":

<https://tuluwatexaminer.wordpress.com/2018/03/25/this-weeks-local-wtf-moment>

The TE opines: *"We would point out there's no good reason for Jared Huffman to endorse anyone running for a supposedly nonpartisan office."* Note: More on this later.

2. Mike McGuire

The following is an April 13, 2018 announcement by John Chiv, on his conservative blog spot Words Worth: <https://johnchiv.blogspot.com/2018/04/senator-mike-mcguire-endorses-fifth.html>

Oddly, there are no comments on this post.

Mike McGuire praises Sundberg and mentions that Huffman and Wood are with him on this endorsement: *"I'm joining Congressman Huffman and Assemblymember Wood in endorsing Supervisor Sundberg for re-election. Ryan is a tireless advocate for Humboldt County and he's constantly fighting for the people he works for."*

3. Jim Wood

The following is another post by conservative blogger John Chiv on April 5, 2018: <https://johnchiv.blogspot.com/2018/04/fifth-district-supervisor-ryan-sundberg.html>

In the article, Wood gushes: *"I am proud to endorse Fifth District Supervisor Ryan Sundberg for re-election in 2018. Supervisor Sundberg and I have worked hard to protect local revenue streams and address unfunded mandates that put an undue burden on local communities. He is a dedicated professional with the unique ability to forge relationships with partners and stakeholders across party lines because he focuses on what is best for his district and the wider Humboldt County community. His re-election is critical to ensure that Humboldt County maintains a voice on the Coastal*

Commission and that the Northcoast is represented in decisions that often have far reaching and lasting impacts.”

On April 6, 2018 Kym Kemp reposted the same press release:

<https://kymkemp.com/2018/04/06/sundberg-endorsed-by-assemblymember-jim-wood>

To put not-too-fine-a-point on this post, Jim Wood is, by his very own words, “proud” of endorsing this No Party Preference candidate (NPP in mostly Democratic Humboldt County, means Republican – but putting an ‘R’ by one’s name will not get them elected in Humboldt).

Then there is this revelatory article on April 7, 2018 from the Tuluwat Examiner:

<https://tuluwatexaminer.wordpress.com/2018/04/07/endorsement-or-kiss-of-death-from-jim-wood>

The article explains some open secrets and ends with: *“Throw this bum out!”* – meaning Sundberg, in this case.

Violation of Article VIII Section 4 (a). It has also come to our attention that these same three DSCC members have also violated Article VIII Section 4 Paragraph (a) of the California Democratic Party Bylaws.

The Bylaws are, again, extremely clear:

a. County Party Exclusively Responsible: Endorsement of candidates for all local nonpartisan offices (defined here as all nonpartisan offices whose jurisdiction do not extend across county lines) shall be the exclusive responsibility of the relevant Democratic County Central Committee. (CDP Bylaws, Article VIII Section 4 (a))

To reiterate, the delegates in question once again are:

Jared Huffman
Mike McGuire
Jim Wood

These delegates publicly endorsed NPP Ryan Sundberg (see above references) over a highly-qualified and well-respected Humboldt University professor, Steve Madrone, who specializes in water management. These endorsements were given even after the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee (HCDCC) unanimously endorsed Madrone. Mr. Madrone has also been endorsed by the Yurok and Hoopa Tribes and Humboldt-Del Norte Central Labor Council <https://kunsoo1024.wordpress.com/2018/03/20/madrone-v-sundberg/>.

The endorsement of Sundberg by Huffman, McGuire, and Wood has openly sabotaged the HCDCC and the Democratic local grassroots movement to elect a candidate who truly represents the best interests of the people and resources. This is not the first time that this has happened but we certainly think it should be the last time.

By their endorsement of a NPP candidate, who was a lifelong Republican before registering as NPP to run for Humboldt County supervisor, Huffman, McGuire, and Wood undermined the likelihood of an active Democrat being elected in an extremely important local race by exerting Party influence from well outside a county that any of them have ever lived. They have subverted the very same democratic process that they claim to uphold. Madrone is now hampered in his efforts to unseat an unpopular Humboldt County Supervisor who appears to show favor to those with deep pockets both in and out of the county, state, and country.

We ask that the CDP Credentials Committee take immediate action to remove these delegates in order to prevent them from unfairly intervening in the Democratic endorsement process. They have already made it clear that they support a non-Democrat for the office of 5th District Supervisor of Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

/Robert Shearer/

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