



CALIFORNIA
DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

CHAIRMAN
SENATOR (RET.)
JOHN BURTON

May 10, 2013

Chairperson Jim Brulte
California Republican Party
1903 W. Magnolia Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91506

Dear Jim,

I'm asking the California Republican Party to renounce and condemn the Willie Horton-style attacks being launched by Republican Gubernatorial candidate Abel Maldonado. Just this spring, when you were elected Chairperson of your party you promised that Republicans in California would turn over a new leaf and abandon the politics of division and the stereotyping of our immigrant and minority communities. As you were quoted in the Black Voice News:

"According to Brulte, there is still room to appeal to African-Americans and other minorities. Brulte believes no community's vote is indefinitely lost by a political party. Furthermore, as Republicans improve upon communicating with all communities, 'the old assumptions' will fade away."

(Blackvoicenews.com, <http://www.blackvoicenews.com/news/48740-race-related-politics-in-america-more-visible-than-ever.html>, Wednesday, 10 April 2013)

Maldonado's attack wasn't just cynical - it was wholly inaccurate. In his attack, he equated Governor Brown's realignment program with violent crime on the streets. He picked an individual who had been out of prison almost 10 years before the realignment was even enacted. His campaign manager first stood by this story and then tried to lay the blame for the mistake on Mark Klaas. It is no wonder that Abel has been rejected in his last two election tries, first trying to hold his job as Lieutenant Governor, to which he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger, and then an attempt to win a congressional seat.

Your stated commitment to a more inclusive Republican Party is not just good politics it's the right thing for California. The way to prove that is to denounce Abel Maldonado's Willie Horton-style campaign that wasn't even done accurately. Your best effort to have a more inclusive party does not necessarily mean having Abel as a standard bearer. In his eagerness to seize upon an issue, he couldn't even get things right.

Peace and friendship,



John Burton

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