

David A. Keene

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Ms. Tiffany G. Johnson, Esq.

Via EMAIL

Dear Ms. Johnson,

John Frazer sent me and other NRA Board members a copy of your letter along with his response which I think covered the very valid points you raised.

John is quite correct in that very few NRA Board members have any financial arrangements of any kind with Ackerman McQueen and thus do not have the conflicts that so worried you when you wrote. Moreover, many Board members have in recent years questioned AcMac's practices even as they've acknowledged the value of the decades long work the firm has done on behalf of the NRA and the Second Amendment. Public relations and advertising firm's like AcMac are expensive so that alone is not a problem, but over the years the firm's rather informal ways of dealing with the NRA has been troubling as was its reaction when Wayne and the NRA staff tried to insist on regularizing its reporting of its work and time devoted to NRA projects.

On the other hand, it is best to take charges levelled by our opponents with a grain or two of salt. It has been as clear to them as it has been to us and to the media that to truly gut the Second Amendment, they have to sideline, cripple or destroy the NRA and its leadership. The principle article raising many of the questions that troubled you was written by one of Michael Bloomberg's people and "shopped" to the magazine that ultimately printed it. To suggest that the author and his patron have an agenda that results not just in a biased interpretation and presentation of facts is an understatement. These are people dedicated to taking down the NRA and that is something we cannot allow at a time when the firearms rights of the American people are at risk as never before.

I've been on the NRA Board for nearly twenty years and served as an officer for six. I've seen all this before and I know just how important Wayne is to the NRA and how important it is to maintain the trust of our members because they are the ones who must unite to protect all our rights.

When I think back, I can recall numerous assaults on the NRA, on Wayne and on the rest of us. When I served as President, you could go on the internet and find a "game" posted by our opponents. It was called "Kill David Keene" and you can imagine how one won it. We've been called criminals, terrorists, racists and just about everything else one can imagine. The NRA itself has been and is being described by our opponents as a "criminal enterprise" and it has been suggested that those of us who serve on the Board should be prosecuted or even locked up. It's something we live with every day, but has never stopped us from serving the NRA's membership or fighting to preserve the Second Amendment.

We've always been prepared to answer the charges levelled against us and are doing so this time without allowing doing so to distract us from the real fight to preserve your rights and mine.

John Frazer rightly recognized the valuable work you have been doing as we expand our appeal to people we hope will as a result of your efforts become as committed to firearms freedom as you and me.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

David A. Keene