

Honorable Charles J. Ritchard

3920 N. Harrison Cove Avenue

Hart, Michigan 49420

January 25, 2024

Michael Whatley, General Counsel, RNC

Matthew Raynor, Chief Counsel, RNC

310 First Street, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Whatley and Mr. Raynor,

On behalf of all the delegates across our great state and of the Michigan Republican Party (hereby known as MIGOP) that duly elected Chairwoman Kristina Karamo at our February 2023 convention, I write to dispute not only your assertions, but your overall method of intervention. Your admission of the limited power of the RNC should have been sufficient to realize that it was an internal strife and one that you should avoid making a proclamation or seek immediate resolution as an arbitrator. You chose neither!

Your letter not only demonstrates a strong bias but indicated a failure to exercise due diligence or attempt to convene an attempt at arbitration before making your baseless proclamation and as such places your entire summation in question. It became as worthless as the paper it was written or worthless as a two handled rake. Lawyers often like to proclaim the Fruit of the Poison Tree, well by your proclamation you not only poisoned it, but eliminated the entire orchard. The dysfunctional situation

which we speak of has existed for months, yet the RNC has chosen to do little until one week before the National Committee meeting and sent a questionable letter. This state has both a National Committeeman, Rob Steele and a National Committeewoman, Kathy Bearden, yet it appears that there has been little attempts to work through them to reach a reasonable outcome and now by involving yourselves as general and chief counsel you have placed the RNC at greater risk, both as principle and agent, to any and all claims arising from either side. A position I was surprised that two honorable counsels, like yourselves, would allow yourselves to be vulnerably positioned.

I reviewed your letter both as a delegate and as a precinct representative, comprised of duly elected voters from Republican, Democrat and Independents in the August 2022 election and as such have a responsibility and honor to represent and defend their rights. Your actions have subjugated their rights, which I will chronicle in my review as noted below.

First, you state, “On behalf of the Republican National Committee (“RNC”), we write concerning the ongoing dispute as to whether Ms. Karamo continues to serve as The Chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party (“MIGOP”), or if she was removed from that position at a special meeting held on January 6.” The question exists as to which organization represents the Michigan Republican Party. Is it the MIGOP or the MRP (Michigan Republican Party)? Additionally, the rogue group was not representing themselves as the MIGOP, but in fact were calling themselves the MI-GOP and were using a fake address, One Leadership Way, with correspondence sent from Ms. Malinda Pego. I personally filed fraud charges on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, against Ms. Pego and the group’s actions. In your opening statement you set the scenario as if you would be presenting facts from both perspectives by mentioning the ongoing dispute and whether Chairwoman Karamo continues to serve. This is a bold statement but fails to follow through with complete facts and indicates that you have the power to dismiss, which you do not! The

tonation of this also sets the narrative of bias by indicating the January 6th meeting as if it exists as the only meeting. Distinguished gentlemen, such as yourselves, know well the power of discovery, and that there is much more fact involved, but by only mentioning the Jan. 6th meeting without a full discussion as to why, poisons the fruit of the tree.

Second, “The RNC is aware of ongoing litigation in this matter as plaintiffs supporting Ms. Karamo’s removal have filed suit in the Kent County Circuit Court. We further are aware that Ambassador Pete Hoekstra was elected Chairman on January 20 at a special meeting called by Ms. Malinda Pego, then purporting to be serving as Acting Chairman, in view of Article IV(C) of the MIGOP By-laws. Meanwhile, Ms. Karamo continues to assert that she remains the MIGOP Chairwoman, and she and her allies have sent multiple cease and desist letters to Ms. Pego, Ambassador Hoekstra, and others.”

Once again you showed a lack of thoroughness in your review and bias beyond pale. In the case of Mr. Hoekstra, you assert his title yet in the roles of Chairwoman Karamo, you fail to address her as Chairwoman Karamo. She certainly has earned that title and honor from an election of over 2000+ delegates strong. You mention the January 6 and the January 20th meetings of the MI-GOP but fail to mention the January 13th meeting of the majority of the real MIGOP. In that meeting the report of the policy committee was received and approved and as such placed Malinda Pego, Daniel Lawless, Tim Ross, Bree Moeggenberg, Andrew Sebolt, and Anne Delisle in a non-compliance status. The Bylaws actions in situations as defined is clear and removal by failure to comply with the Bylaws of the MIGOP is the correct measure. This removed these members from the MIGOP body and any actions subsequent thereof, as attempts to defraud which they conducted in either in person or via proxies in their respective roles of January 20th. The fact that this meeting was called without 10 days prior notice, along with these questionable votes, brings the entire meeting and false voting into question.

As for the multiple ceases and desist orders, they are in fact correct to assert because this group had committed fraud, as previously mentioned, as was Ms. Pego in her purporting to be Acting Chair. They were formally seeking action to require the group to promulgate the lies as damages were accruing. Ms. Pego has subsequently indicated in a recording during her monthly Muskegon County GOP meeting that she may have been wrong in her actions.

Third, “Although the RNC has limited powers to issue binding determinations in internal state party disputes, it unquestionably has the authority to determine for its own purposes, who its voting members are. The RNC Rules of the Republican Party (“RNC RULES”) provide that the “duly elected and acting chairman of each state Republican Party shall be a member of the National Republican Committee during his or her term in office” and further provide that the election of members to fill vacancies in the Republican National Committee “shall be ratified by the Republican National Committee after their election.” RNC Rules 3(b) & 4(a). With the RNC Winter Meeting taking place next week, and with the resolution of this dispute’s important implications for the presidential delegate selection process in Michigan, it is necessary and appropriate for the RNC to review this matter at this time.”

You admit in the opening of this paragraph to the inadequacy of the RNC in this matter, but further complicate and convolute the issue in your last statement of the paragraph stating the criticality of the review yet, you remained dormant through the past 9 months. The delegates for the upcoming election are indeed critical, but by your negligence in the past now will place all delegates in question and, in fact, raise the question is this indeed the RNC intent and force a floor vote due to a candidate not able to secure sufficient delegates. The RNC Party rules speak of the duly elected chairman of each state and in Michigan,

which was resoundingly Kristina Karamo but by a strong majority of over 2000+ delegates not 40 of a coup de etat rogue group. The RNC has no role but then to seat the duly elected Chairwoman, Kristina Karamo and to deny her is to deny the entire Michigan Republican Party opening the RNC to litigation and a black eye to the public during a crucial election year. Furthermore, there is no vacancy in terms of the MIGOP and so any actions by the RNC to ratify a new chair will be met with subsequent legal action. If this delegate selection process was so important to the RNC, why now and why penalize the majority of those who voted for Chairwoman Kristina Karamo. Our laws are not based on a simple majority or in the case of the rogue group, a minority, but are a representative democracy to prevent mob type rule. The RNC is wading into murky water which potentially gets them banned from operating within the State of Michigan.

Fourth, “The RNC Counsel’s office has reviewed the MIGOP ByLaws, meeting minutes, and other materials provided by both sides in this dispute. Based upon its initial review, it appears to the Counsel’s office that Ms. Karamo has been removed in accordance with the Bylaws of the MIGOP on January 6th. That said, the counsel’s office is not dispositive, and it recognizes additional information could come to light which changes its view.”

The ability to speak from both sides of one’s mouth is clearly on display in this paragraph and is equal to a statement made by Ambassador Hoekstra to the Dutch press in his first term where he subsequently lied when asked if that is what he said. The fact that you stated upon initial review and then make a bold

statement yet follow it with there may be additional facts. This is not only an example of inadequate research, but also negligence on the part of the investigation team. The word initial means that there would or may be subsequent inquiries which then calls into question, why release a statement at all if not complete. Did the investigation review the signatures of the votes and proxies? The January 6th meeting was called by Cochair Pego who was not authorized to call the meeting, and this constitutes fraud. The January 20th meeting was reported to have had only twenty-seven sitting state committee members and if it is let to stand, mob rule would be the order of the day. One member Mark Forton, Chairman of Macomb County GOP, used a fake proxy at the January 20, 2024, of a state committee member, Michelle Donovan, who was removed in October 2023 for lack of participation. A complete fraud and one that likely nullifies this entire vote.

Did the investigation review the fact that insufficient posting of the meeting was given? These and many more questions that I am certain the investigation team failed in their investigation and because of their bold statement, place the RNC at risk for all damages to the Karamo team as well as the real MIGOP team and not the fake MI-GOP team, which the RNC appears to recognize. This makes the RNC both principle and agent of fraud.

Fifth, “As a matter of procedure, the RNC is unable to conclusively rule on whether Ms. Karamo or Ambassador Hoekstra is a voting member of the RNC prior to the Winter

Meeting next week. Therefore, absent timely resolution of any litigation, please be advised as follows:

1. Neither Ms. Karamo nor Ambassador Hoekstra shall be credentialed as MIGOP Chair for the RNC Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Both shall be permitted to attend as guests.
2. Following the RNC Winter Meeting, a body of the RNC members will move quickly to review the dispute and make recommendations as they believe appropriate.”

If item 2 is as critical as you have indicated previously then you contradict yourself because if the urgency is there, call an emergency meeting even via zoom and manage it with the sense of urgency as stated. After the Winter meeting is over your recommendations carry little power and the outcome will be determined by the courts. Ms. Karamo is indeed the rightful Chair of the MIGOP, and the others have been fraudulent attempts in a coup de etat takeover whose members have been named in a countersuit. Now, by the RNC weighing in without total fact and reaching a conclusion, the suit should be amended to include the RNC. Your comments have added further to an already great divide which may have been intentional as a preventative to Donald Trump receiving not only a majority in the State of Michigan, but also affecting the outcome in the Presidential election and may require Federal Agency review to ensure compliance with both state and federal election laws.

Finally, the RNC lateness to the game certainly provides no resemblance of solution and further complicates the issue. It could result in members deciding to set this election cycle out

because of your lack of sensitivity and timeliness on the issue. It also can result in your being brought into the case as co-conspirators to the fraud and as enablers. Dan Hartman's letter of 01-25-24 is clear however, it needs to go further and I must also advise you that I will be passing this info on to the FBI for their review since it has involved fraud, and it is clear to me that neither of you have followed due diligence and have allowed this condition to continue and grow. As officers of the court in your respective states, I would have expected a higher opinion from each of you, but in the end only res ipsa loquitor matters!

Respectively submitted,

Charles J. Ritchard

Charles J. Ritchard, retired

Former VP aerospace, Former Secretary 2nd Congressional District, former City Councilman City of Norton Shores, Former City Commissioner City of Muskegon, Former Secretary Oceana County Republican Committee, Former Chairman Oceana County Board of Canvassers, Former member of the Kraken with Sydney Powell, numerous boards, Soccer Coach 28 years, MSYSA Soccer State Board and Referee and assignor and more!