

August 28, 2010

Big Bear Lighthouse Project
P.O. Box 100
Fawnskin, Ca 92333

ATT: Beth Gardner
RE: Proposed Campaign Ethics Contract

Dear Big Bear Lighthouse Project,

Mr. John Green (fellow CSD Candidate) and I had a discussion about your request for candidates to sign and comply with The Lighthouse Projects proposed Campaign Ethics Contract.

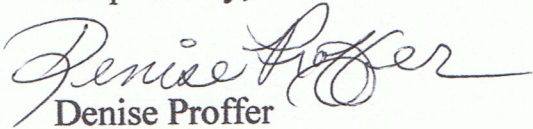
Mr. Green and I believe in the spirit of what the Campaign Ethics Contract is attempting to do and applaud you for the well-meaning effort. On the surface it appears to be a good idea. However, we believe the methods being suggested by The Lighthouse on how to achieve and potentially monitor the contract's objectives are flawed at best.

The essence of its content is ambiguous to one's own interpretation(s). When we registered as candidates a Code of Fair Campaign Practices Oath was signed. Mr. Green and I share the opinion that this oath is more in keeping with what our American Constitution had intended as a guideline for the election process. Accountability should be to the citizenship (voter) as individuals, not to any group or organization. Regardless of how well meaning your efforts may be, we respectfully decline to sign The Lighthouse Projects Campaign Contract.

In no way is it our intent to criticize, imply anything negative, or judge the other candidates who decide to sign your contract. Mr. Green and I simply have a philosophical difference with the other candidates that wish to sign. We sincerely hope in taking this position it will demonstrate important lessons to the young citizens of our community - To be tolerant of others' freedom to express different opinions and beliefs; and more importantly to have the courage and conviction to stand up for one's own beliefs.

In the interest of fairness we are requesting our letter be printed in addition to your press release as to why we have declined to sign the contract. We have therefore sent a copy of this letter to the Big Bear Grizzly newspaper and KBHR Radio Station.

Respectfully,



Denise Proffer
(909) 584-1403



John Green
(909) 831-3012

Cc: Big Bear Grizzly
KBHR Radio Station



THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT
Creating Child Honoring Communities

September 1, 2010

Ms. Denise Proffer
Mr. John Green

Dear Ms. Proffer and Mr. Green,

Thank you very much for attending our Candidate Workshop, consideration of our campaign promise and for your letter of August 30, 2010. As we discussed during the workshop, it is a common occurrence within our great democracy for people to agree on what is in the best interest of our country or community, but not necessarily on how to accomplish the "what". Your honest and open concerns regarding the campaign are met with appreciation and respect.

Not unlike our U.S. Constitution, the language of our Campaign Promise was intended to be open to interpretation – which you might define as 'ambiguous'. It is not to serve as an impingement on anyone's freedoms or abilities to conduct their campaign as they best see fit, but rather as a reminder that our great democracy is best served when candidates and elected officials eschew negative campaigning and attacks on opponents in favor of representing their platforms and qualifications to voters and constituents. When the need to alert the public to a potential threat, we believe it is well within the bounds of the promise for a candidate to present pertinent facts that can be verified. Smears or unfounded attacks on character are not.

It is likely that many, if not all, of our local candidates for the past several years, including many elected and appointed officials, have signed the Code of Fair Campaign Practices Oath. However, we continue to see many of the negative behaviors that oath prohibits in our local campaigns, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the Fair Campaign Practices Oath. The effect that negative campaigns and politics have on our community is devastating. The inability of seated officials to collaborate and cooperate, sometimes caused by negative campaign experiences, seriously thwarts the progress of our community and limits our potential. We need to find a way to do a better job here and our approach, although not perfect, is an attempt at just that.

We appreciate your willingness to respect the decisions of other candidates who participate, as well as your continued support of The Lighthouse Project. We, too, are passionate about freedom of expression and respect for the opinions and beliefs of others different from our own, and we applaud your willingness to demonstrate the same. We wish you all the best with your campaign, and thank you for your desire to serve the community.

Best regards,

Beth Gardner
Program Director
The Lighthouse Project, Inc.