



**Republican
National
Committee**

Counsel's Office

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Katie Porter
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Maloney, Chairmen Raskin and Connolly, and Rep. Porter:

I write in response to your March 5, 2020, letter directed to Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel and requesting a response by today regarding the Republican National Committee's ("RNC") legally compliant and First Amendment-protected political material. I am responding on behalf of the Chairwoman.

Without addressing all of your conclusory legal points, claims about the "spirit" of the law, and other issues raised, please be advised that RNC solicitations are legally compliant and contain all required disclaimers, demonstrating that there should be no doubt as to the source of this or any other RNC letter. The clear and conspicuous disclaimer plainly indicates that the mailing is "Paid for by the Republican National Committee," includes all other language required by law, and fully complies with your cited authorities. Thus, like all RNC mail, the clear identification we include should remove any confusion as to the mailing's source. Furthermore, mailings like these have been utilized by both political parties for years and for the RNC have been a very

successful communications tool to inform recipients about our political programs and generate political interest.

We note with great dismay that your request is aimed squarely at RNC “letters, fundraising requests, text messages, social media posts, or any other communications” in the midst of a busy election year. As a national political party, we revere the protection of political speech at the core of First Amendment protections. U.S. Const. Amend. I. (“Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech.”). Thus, while the RNC expressly reserves its constitutional right to communicate with the American public, and does not waive any of the committee’s rights, remedies, claims, or causes of action, all of which are hereby reserved, at this time, the RNC intends to use words other than “census” in future RNC mailings and digital advertising.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 863-8638 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Justin Riemer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

J. Justin Riemer
Chief Counsel

Cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Chip Roy, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Mark Meadows, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations