



April 5, 2010

The Honorable Haley Barbour, Chairman
Republican Governors Association
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Governor Barbour:

I am Eliot Cutler, Independent candidate for governor of Maine. A few weeks ago, a young woman began contacting my campaign office in Portland by email and telephone, wanting to know where I was going to be speaking. She would only give her first name, Lauren, and refused to provide an address or phone number. She also would never say why she was so anxious to hear me speak.

At the time, I was unaware of this woman's repeated inquiries to my campaign office. However, when I attended a recent candidates' forum with Republican and Democratic candidates for governor in the town of Skowhegan, I introduced myself to a young woman who said her name was Lauren. I asked her what she did, and she told me that she worked at the deli counter in a supermarket in the Portland area. She said that she just happened to be in our state capital of Augusta that day and decided to continue going north up to Skowhegan (almost two hours from Portland) to hear the candidates speak.

Her story just didn't add up. When she got up from the table and started videotaping me as the forum began, I asked one of the Republican candidates next to me who she was. He replied, "Oh, she's with the RGA."

While I realize that the RGA – or any other group – has every right to stalk candidates with a video camera, I have to confess that I find both the practice and this manner of doing so highly objectionable. Its only purpose – starting in March, no less – is to hopefully capture a few seconds of some "gotcha" moment that can be used in a 30-second negative ad this fall.

People are sick and tired of this kind of politics, which is one of the reasons why my Independent candidacy is getting such a great response (certainly enough for you to have your paid tracker follow me around). That said, my reason for writing is to suggest to you that if the RGA feels compelled to pay a tracker to videotape me and other candidates, that person, when asked a direct question, should at least be honest enough to say who she is, what she is doing, and who is paying her.

The Honorable Haley Barbour, Chairman
Republican Governors Association
April 5, 2010
Page 2

I look forward to a spirited campaign against the Republican and the Democratic nominees. We have a lot to talk about here in Maine, and I hope that this will be a campaign based on the ideas, experience, and vision that each candidate has for turning our state around. Your party's employment of a paid tracker at this early stage of the campaign – especially one who deliberately lies about who she is – unfortunately leads me to conclude that Maine voters are going to be treated this year to more of the same old slash and burn politics that has turned off so many people.

I have copied the Republican candidates for governor in Maine, and by this letter I am asking them to repudiate both this juvenile practice in general and the RGA's dishonest approach to it.

We are all working hard to earn the right to be the next governor of Maine. We should each try to do it in an honorable way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Cutler', written over a white background.

Eliot R. Cutler
Independent candidate for Governor