



Curt Dubost <cdubost@pasoschools.org>

Concerning email about Californians for Population Stabilization sent to Paso Robles school board

1 message

Ric Oberlink <ric@capsweb.org>

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To: "cdubost@pasoschools.org" <cdubost@pasoschools.org>, "carend@pasoschools.org" <carend@pasoschools.org>, "dkbaker@pasoschools.org" <dkbaker@pasoschools.org>, "ccbausch@pasoschools.org" <ccbausch@pasoschools.org>, "lgannon@pasoschools.org" <lgannon@pasoschools.org>, "tjgearhart@pasoschools.org" <tjgearhart@pasoschools.org>, "jmreed@pasoschools.org" <jmreed@pasoschools.org>, "newilliams@pasoschools.org" <newilliams@pasoschools.org>

TO: Curt Dubost, Superintendent
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

Board of Trustees
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

FROM: Ric Oberlink
Executive Director
Californians for Population Stabilization

It has come to my attention that email correspondence to the Trustees of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District stated that Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS) is "recognized as a hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Michael Rivera is a member of the Board of Directors of CAPS.

CAPS is a nonprofit group, incorporated over 40 years ago, that is concerned about the damage that overpopulation causes our environment. We therefore undertake educational activities intended to lessen population growth and to encourage replacement-level fertility rates and replacement-level immigration rates.

Our Directors, staff, and supporters seek to preserve biodiversity and open space. Beyond that, CAPS is concerned that large-scale immigration depresses the wages of

poor, less-skilled American workers. Harvard's George Borjas, described by both Business Week and the Wall Street Journal as America's leading immigration economist (and an immigrant himself), described the effect of current immigration policy succinctly, "Affluent Americans gain; poor Americans lose." Some of our directors actively worked for civil rights in the South during the 1960s.

Past members of the CAPS Board of Advisors include David Brower, the first executive director of the Sierra Club, and Linus Pauling, the only person to have been awarded two unshared Nobel Prizes, one of which was the Nobel Peace Prize. Our mission statement is:

Californians for Population Stabilization works to formulate and advance policies and programs designed to stabilize the population of California, the U.S., and the world at levels which will preserve the environment and a good quality of life for all.

I encourage you to visit our website, [CAPS – Californians for Population Stabilization \(capsweb.org\)](http://capsweb.org), to learn more about our concerns, our positions, and our activities.

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Immigration is a controversial issue, and one can always disagree about the appropriate level of immigration. CAPS agrees with environmental icon David Brower who said, "Overpopulation is perhaps our biggest problem, and overimmigration is part of it. We must address both."

CAPS encourages rigorous debate, frank discussion, and an open exchange of ideas as means of determining appropriate policies. Unfortunately, in the current polarized political climate, the SPLC has chosen to stifle debate with the name-calling and bullying tactics of McCarthyism.

"The SPLC's hate list has become a weapon for taking individuals and groups they disagree with and tarring them with ugly associations," according to Karl Zinsmeister, Vice President of the Philanthropy Roundtable. "While promoting itself as a monitor of 'hate groups,' the SPLC has become a fomenter of hate."

A modicum of investigation will reveal that the façade of virtue constructed by SPLC is crumbling:

- SPLC paid a defamation settlement of \$3.4 million to Maajid Nawaz, a practicing Muslim, after characterizing him as an anti-Muslim extremist.
- An armed SPLC supporter carrying 50 rounds of ammunition attempted mass murder at the office of a nonprofit group, telling police he acted because the SPLC had listed it as a hate group. Fortunately, the first man he shot was able to tackle and disarm him.
- Morris Dees, the founder of SPLC and its leader for almost half a century, was fired for misconduct after about two dozen employees accused him of "mistreatment, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and racism."
- A former writer for the SPLC has described the organization as a "highly profitable scam."

While much of the media has naively repeated the SPLC's allegations without doing any investigation, more astute journalists and commentators have not been so easily duped:

- Alexander Cockburn in *Counterpunch*, "King of the Hate Business."
- Marc Thiessen in the *Washington Post*, "The Southern Poverty Law Center has lost all credibility."
- Ken Silverstein in *Harper's*, "'Hate,' Immigration, and the Southern Poverty Law Center."
- Jessica Prol Smith in *USA Today*, "The Southern Poverty Law Center is a hate-based scam that nearly caused me to be murdered."
- Bob Moser in the *New Yorker*, "The Reckoning of Morris Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center."

The above articles, and many more, can be found at <https://splcexposed.com/>. Liberals, conservatives, and moderates have all expressed revulsion at the tactics of the SPLC.

I hope this assists you in understanding more about CAPS and more about the SPLC. I hope members of the Paso Robles community can engage in honest and civil discourse about the issues before them. That is the essence of our democracy.

Ric Oberlink

Executive Director

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