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CCLA

Press Release

California civil rights lobby vows to oppose Donald Trump's administration 'to the bitter end'

Organization president dares President Trump to implement 'fascist policies' in Sacramento

Sacramento, CA, January 23, 2017: Organization President Amber Lynette of the California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) wrote an open letter addressed to incoming President Donald Trump at Trump Tower in New York, vowing to oppose the bombastic policies that Mr. Trump proposed during his campaign, including Mr. Trump's 'great wall' on the Mexican border, the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants, and overturning the landmark case, *Roe v. Wade* of 1973. Ms. Lynette accused Mr. Trump of selecting cabinet members with 'corrupt ties and blatant conflicts of interest,' such as the nomination of ExxonMobil CEO, Rex Tillerson, whom the media has reported as having business ties to Russia and other foreign nations. Ms. Lynette openly 'dared' Mr. Trump to implement his 'fascist policies' in California and vowed to use 'every last bit of our [the CCLA's] limited resources' fighting Mr. Trump's policies 'to the bitter end' in Sacramento.

Ms. Lynette closed her letter by stating, "You may be the President of the United States of America, but the State of California did not choose you. Those of us who put our hearts and our souls, and all of our vital energy into fighting for the true and just cause—we will be watching you. You are not our president and neither your fascist rhetoric nor your policies are welcome here in California."

A full copy of the letter is available from the organization's website at www.californiacivil liberties.org. For more information, contact Vice President Nicholas Gonzales at (916) 596-3464 or n.gonzales@caliberty.net.

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For Release After 9 a.m. PST, January 23, 2017



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

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Monday, January 23, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
Trump Tower
725 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Trump,

We are the California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) — a nonpartisan citizens’ lobby dedicated to the people of our great State of California. Our organization is neither liberal nor conservative. We value progress as well as the preservation of American values, so long as this progress is consistent with the constitutions of the United States of America and the State of California, and so long as these values do not infringe upon the rights of others. We do not rely on the money of corporations for funding. Our only interests lie in the civil rights and freedoms of the people, as well as preserving those rights and freedoms for generations to come. Over the course of your campaign, our board has compiled a list of policy topics, statements, and actions that lead us to believe you have no interest in upholding the civil liberties of the people you recently swore to protect. With that said, our organization writes to you today with a declaration of our dissent—and our most certain rejection—of both you as the leader of this nation, and of your openly corrupt administration.

Let us begin with your great wall—rebuilding our immigration system cannot be based on discrimination or the criminalization of all noncitizens. Civil liberties apply to everyone on our soil, whether or not they are citizens yet. Detaining all noncitizens, mandating E-Verify, overturning jus soli, and halting green cards isn’t a solution, but rather a violation of civil liberties and a continuance of our inefficiency. We need a stable path to visitation and citizenship. We do not need a wall on top of our already secure borders, or more detention facilities to mistreat people who have come to us in need. Limiting the intake of refugees and ripping apart families isn’t about protection from crime or terrorism—it’s about disenfranchisement, criminalization and discrimination. With this in mind, the CCLA wants to make it very clear that any pursuit of a Muslim registry is an extreme violation of civil liberty and will be opposed at all costs. We would like to refer to Japanese Internment as our country’s own historical example of discrimination against American citizens. We would also like to refer to the holocaust in Germany—where people of Jewish descent were also placed on a registry.

You have claimed time and time again that you want to rid the white house of corrupt ties to lobbyists and corporations. The CCLA would be in agreement with this stance if it weren’t a

*“Indifference to personal liberty is but the precursor of the state’s hostility to it.”
— Justice Kennedy, U.S. Supreme Court*

blatant lie. Your picks for the administration thus far have been made up of corrupt ties and blatant conflicts of interest—many of which have already been listed out in the letter Elizabeth Warren addressed to you on the November 15th, 2016. Big oil, banks, and corporate power seem to be making up your entire team. ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State, with undisputed business interests in Russia and other foreign nations, indicates that your corporate cronies have no intention of absolving any real or potential conflicts of interest. Stephen Bannon as your chief strategist represents your white nationalism, as well as your silence in light of racist supporters, and the bullying of people across the country. Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of Education shows you have no intention of bettering the public education system—your interests lie in the privatization of education. Every person you appoint to your cabinet evidences the gross potential for civil liberties violations and that you are willing to compromise the best interests of the people in order to manufacture personal gains through big business.

Your talk on energy has been far from the truth. Clean coal is impossible. There is simply no such thing as clean coal. Saying aloud that you are going to push for the opening of more oil pipelines is a spit in the face of our water protectors at the Dakota Access Pipeline whose First Amendment rights are being violated this very instant.

You have made it very clear throughout your campaign that you intend to pick an ultra-conservative justice to replace Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court. The CCLA believes that a judge should never be picked for the purpose of maintaining one side's special interests, but instead on their experience, and their ability to look at the issues of the time justly. You may have stated that you want to appoint a judge to protect America's liberties, but you have also made it very clear that the judge you appoint will have to have your individual interests in mind first. In a live debate you stated, "I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges." This is merely a reflection of your own beliefs, and has absolutely nothing to do with the merit of a Supreme Court justice, or the evidence at hand in a potential court case involving abortion. It just means that your judges will already have a special interest bias beforehand, and that is in no way protecting civil liberties.

You have come into this presidency with the intention to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, not because it is unjust—but because it will, in your own words, "inevitably happen" due to the bias in the nominees for the Supreme Court that you choose. This country's laws were never meant to be a back and forth game between party lines over old scores. They are meant to be built upon or dismantled for the betterment of the nation. You say that, "it will be up to the states" upon your prediction of *Roe v. Wade's* fall, but the hypocrisy in this statement is another reflection of your false promise to protect civil liberties. It is not okay for some states to go without the protections that *Roe v. Wade* offers, when other states (like California) maintain similar protections in its place. States may conduct their differences in how they handle day-to-day regulation, but those regulations have a federal backbone. *Roe v. Wade* was decided upon justly, and dismantling it under a conservative regime is in no way just, but rather an assurance of inequality.

Throughout your campaign, civil liberties have been under constant attack in the form of racist, misogynistic, xenophobic slurs as well as policy promises and actions that reflect those slurs. If your administration does not falter beneath its own hatreds, it will falter beneath the diverse hands of good people working to cleanse this system of those hatreds. In fact, we at the CCLA believe that evil will not triumph over good. We dare you to implement your fascist policies as we hereby pledge to our fellow Californians that we will be on the front lines in Sacramento, at our State Capitol. In the face of fascist rhetoric and promised policy-change over the course of your campaign trail, the CCLA stands firm in its dissent, and will continue to do so for as long as you plan on attacking civil liberties. We will use every last bit of our limited resources (and then some) to fight you and your corrupt administration to the bitter end. You may be the President of the United States of America, but the State of California did not choose you. Those of us who put our hearts and our souls, and all of our vital energy into fighting for the true and just cause—we will be watching you. You are not our president and neither your fascist rhetoric nor your policies are welcome in California.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amber Lynette', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amber Lynette

President

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