



Republican
National
Committee

Ed Gillespie
Chairman

October 13, 2004

Ms. Jehnu Greene, President
Rock the Vote
1313 L Street, NW
First Floor
Washington, DC 20005

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 962-9715

Dear President Greene:

It has been brought to the attention of the Republican National Committee—and was confirmed in the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday—that your organization is sponsoring and promoting a false and misleading Internet campaign designed to scare America's youth into believing that they may be drafted to serve in the military.

In the *Times* article your Political Director said, "I don't see why candidates get to talk about war all day long and we can't talk about a draft." Yet, as you must be aware, this urban myth regarding a draft has been thoroughly debunked by no less than the President of the United States, who explicitly stated, "We don't need the draft. Look, the all-volunteer Army is working..."¹ as well as the Vice President, who explained, "And the notion that somebody's peddling out there that there is a secret plan to reinstitute the draft, hogwash, not true."² Additionally, the Secretary of Defense, "heatedly denied yesterday that the military plans to bring back the draft and boost reserves and National Guard callups after the November election. 'That is absolute nonsense,' [Donald] Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee. 'It's absolutely false that anyone in this administration is considering reinstituting the draft.'"³

In light of the above statements, the only conclusion to be drawn is that your Rock the Vote "Draft Your Friends" campaign is being conducted with malicious intent and a reckless disregard for the truth. As a "non-partisan" organization that enjoys the benefits of being formed under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, you have an obligation to immediately cease and desist from promoting or conducting your "Draft" campaign.

¹ President George W. Bush, Remarks At Okaloosa-Walton College, Niceville, FL, 8/10/04.

² Vice President Dick Cheney, NBC's "Nightly News," 9/29/04.

³ Richard Sisk, "No Draft, No Extra Troops - Rummy," [New York] *Daily News*, 9/24/04

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The Republican National Committee shares the goal of your organization to encourage voter registration and "empower young people to change their world." In fact, our aggressive outreach efforts have produced more than 65,600 student Team Leaders and more than 26,000 young professional Team Leaders engaging their peers at the grassroots level to register voters and spread the party message. We've visited college campuses, NASCAR races, World Wrestling Entertainment matches and scores of other events that are packed with younger voters—including appearing on MTV's Total Request Live.

We've found that younger voters care about the same issues that older Americans care about; winning the War on Terror, creating jobs, improving our public schools, making health care more affordable, etc.

It is unfortunate that you feel the need to engage in a misinformation campaign regarding an alleged draft to energize young voters. This is the sort of malicious political deception that is likely to increase voter cynicism and in fact decrease the youth vote, as well as raising serious legal issues regarding the political motivations of your efforts.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ed Gillespie
Chairman

cc: Randel A. Falco, President, NBC Universal Television Networks Group
Vincent K. McMahon, Chairman, World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.
Judy McGrath, Chairman and CEO, MTV Networks
Jonathan F. Miller, Chairman and CEO, AOL
Richard D. Parsons, Chairman and CEO, Time Warner Inc.