



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Rick Kriseman

House District 53

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Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Samm Simpson
Campaign Office
P.O. Box 228
Dunedin, Florida 34697

Dear Ms. Simpson,

I write this letter with some trepidation as I fear that in doing so I am giving unintended significance and validity to your campaign. However, given the recent behavior and actions of your campaign, I find myself unable to let this matter pass without comment.

Allow me to explain.

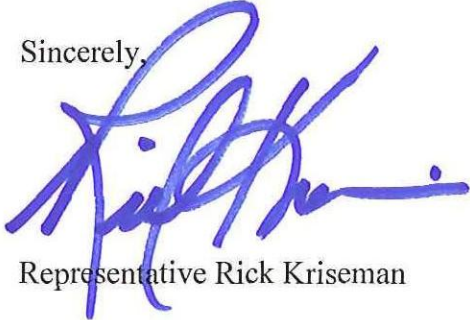
On the evening of May 30, 2008, the Raytheon Corporation held a community meeting at their St. Petersburg Facility. The purpose of this meeting was for Raytheon to inform the public of the results of recent groundwater contamination tests and what actions it intended on pursuing in the cleanup of this contamination. The Azalea Neighborhood Residents (who I had the great honor of representing for six years on the St. Petersburg City Council) make up the majority of the residents inside the plume area. Before the meeting had begun, one of your campaign supporters was observed sign-waving near the Raytheon entrance. You were also in attendance at the meeting. First and foremost, I find the actions of your campaign staff offensive. And while the meeting was open to the public, and as such, you were certainly invited to attend, it is reasonable to question whether you would have been in attendance had you not been running for office.

In what has been a frightening and distressful time for these homeowners, you and a member of your campaign made the strategic decision to travel from your own neighborhoods to this neighborhood to take advantage of the large turnout, ignoring the somber mood created by a significant health scare and the potential loss of home value suffered by these good people. As if that was not enough, at two more recent community events, your campaign again pounced on this situation by distributing campaign literature and by publicly questioning Congressman Bill Young's involvement in this issue. Do you not understand that for every second you or one of your supporters is at the microphone politicking, an actual resident of the area is being silenced? Have you no respect for these people?

In your ongoing quest for elected office, it seems as though you have forgotten why you are running and who you are supposed to be representing. This issue is not about you and your election. It is not about Max Linn or Congressman Young. It is about these residents and their families. You should be ashamed of yourself and you should apologize to the good people of this community.

Please, do the residents of west St. Petersburg a favor and cease campaigning at any additional Raytheon, DEP, or related neighborhood events. Prove to us that these people are more important than your campaign. A copy of this letter requesting the same will be sent to one of your opponents, Max Linn, whose campaign practices during this contamination crisis I find as offensive and reprehensible.

Sincerely,



Representative Rick Kriseman

CC: Max Linn