

Leading the Way

Past Idaho GOP Chairs Tom Luna and Trent Clark

June 29, 2023

Ronna McDaniel, Chair
Republican National Committee
310 First Street SE
Washington, D.C., U.S.

Dear Ronna,

The current leadership of the Idaho Republican Party has waged a relentless campaign to remove Damond Watkins as Idaho's National Committeeman. They must be held accountable for their actions which we believe are clearly contrary to rule and proper procedure.

Mr. Watkins was prepared to defend himself before Idaho's Republican Central Committee. Immediately before the session, however, he was taken aside and the details of a "confidential investigative committee" were shared with him. This was not done providing him time to prepare a response. Rather, he was told these "details," which included personal, private information about his minor children and family, would be aired within the next few minutes, in front of the full statewide Central Committee, unless he resigned immediately.

Such procedure is clearly contrary to the guidance provided by Parliamentarian Al Gage in his opinion of December 27, 2022, wherein he quotes RONR (12th ed) 63:12:

"Information obtained in strict confidence may help the committee to form an opinion, but it may not be reported to the society or used in a trial—except as may be possible without bringing out the confidential particulars. Before any action is taken, fairness demands that the committee or some of its members make a reasonable attempt to meet with the accused for frank discussion and to hear his side of the story." [Gage Opinion, page 11]

Therefore, as former Chairs of the Idaho Republican Party, we ask that the RNC investigate the unethical and what we believe to be illegal actions that led to the coerced "resignation" of Damond Watkins, and that until your investigation is complete, you refrain from recognizing anyone other than Damond Watkins as Idaho's National Committeeman.

Sincerely,

Tom Luna
Past-Chair

Trent Clark
Past-Chair

cc: Cindy Siddoway, Idaho National Committeewoman
Dorothy Moon, Idaho GOP Chair