



A STATEMENT ADDRESSING THE WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BY APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Dear Mountaineers,

On September 8, the Watauga County Board of Elections released a public statement to condemn the actions of Board Member Eric Eller and to apologize for neglecting to address his racist attempt to criminalize and use violent language against Black Mountaineers. While the Board's statement begins to mend the wounds inflicted on our community, additional action is appropriate and warranted.

The pain currently felt by our community was directly inflicted by Mr. Eller and exasperated by the Board's failure to act. Over these past weeks, we have confronted the Board about this situation. Collectively, the Board has taken accountability for their actions by issuing a formal and public apology.

We appreciate and respect the Board's ability to recognize, address, and apologize for neglecting to condemn Mr. Eller. While we accept the apology, the time it has taken for it to occur has been extremely disappointing.

Mr. Eller, however, continues to avoid accountability by ignoring those it is his duty to serve. Abusing his power as a Board member, betraying the public's trust, spreading misinformation, fear-mongering, and attempting to disenfranchise voters are only some of the grievances committed, all while cowardly hiding from the consequences of his actions.

As such, we, the undersigned, demand a formal and public apology from Mr. Eller for his actions along with his immediate resignation from the Board of Elections. Mr. Eller has proven that he is not fit to be a public servant and should not have the privilege of representing our community.

Sincerely,

Michael Davis
AppState Student Body
President

Gaby Romero
AppState SGA's Chief of
Staff

Korbin Cummings
AppState SGA's Dir. of
Diversity and Inclusion

Adam Zebzda
AppState SGA's Dir. of
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