



Carl Trujillo <trujillo4rep@gmail.com>

Why We Join Laura Bonar In Asking For Rep Carl Trujillo To Resign

1 message

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May 7, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

We are saddened by the sexual harassment allegations made against one of our own, but are writing to let you know that we believe Laura Bonar and her revelation of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior perpetrated against her by Rep. Carl Trujillo and join our colleague, Rep. Debbie Armstrong, in saying so.

We recognize how very difficult it is for someone to come forward publicly to tell their story of sexual harassment by a respected public official. It puts at grave risk the victim's reputation and relationships with family and friends, as well as employment and career. No one takes that risk lightly or, as some might suggest, for the mere political gain of someone else. It is this risk that Ms. Bonar has undertaken that causes us to believe her story. The fact that her employer not only believes her, but is also willing to put at risk its own legislative relationships and its advocacy agenda, raises the level of veracity of Ms. Bonar's story and strengthens our resolve to stand in support.

Ms. Bonar is an employee of Animal Protection Voters, a trusted, respected and admired organization that comes to the State Capitol every year to lobby for the well being and humane treatment of our animals. The staff of Animal Protection Voters is well respected and have a reputation of being the ultimate professionals.

We also uphold the truth of Rep. Armstrong being approached by other credible individuals who told of having experienced similar acts of harassment and inappropriate behavior by Rep. Trujillo. For personal reasons, these women feel unable to come forward with their stories. While we fully support an internal investigation, as provided for in the new House Anti-Harassment Policy, we fear such an investigation may not do justice to these women who, for legitimate reasons, find it too great a risk to publicly disclose what happened to them.

The violation, by an elected official, of an individual's spirit, integrity and personal body through sexual harassment is a violation of the public trust given in good faith by the voters. It is also a violation of

one's public oath to uphold the laws and Constitution of New Mexico. We believe it is also incumbent on us, as

elected officials, to uphold the public trust by calling out wrongdoing, even if it involves a colleague.

Because we believe in the truthfulness and seriousness of Ms. Bonar's story, we join her in asking Rep. Trujillo to resign from office and withdraw from his re-election bid.

In next year's legislative session, we want Laura Bonar to walk the hallways of the State Capitol as a champion of integrity, woman's rights and civil rights. We want all public employees, advocates, lobbyists and the general public to be able to walk the halls of the Capitol, and engage with elected officials in any setting, in complete safety and to be treated with the respect and dignity they well deserve. We cannot allow the public trust to be eroded by our silence and wanted you to know why we feel compelled to step forward.

Su Mas Atento Servidores,

State Representative Miguel P García, Dist. 14

State Representative Christine Trujillo, Dist. 25



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