



NEW HAMPSHIRE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

105 North State Street • Concord, NH 03301

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www.nhdp.org

Raymond Buckley, Chair

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2015

NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

November 20, 2015

Karen Ladd,
Assistant Secretary of State
Statehouse
Concord, NH 03301
By Hand Delivery

Re: Ballot Law Commission, Docket No. 2015-03, Challenge against Bernie Sanders

Dear Ms. Ladd:

Please convey this letter to the Ballot Law Commission with respect to the Commission's consideration of the challenge filed by a Republican Presidential Candidate who currently goes by the name of Andy Martin. On November 12, 2015, Mr. Martin purported to challenge Senator Sanders's credentials as a Democrat.

As the chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party ("NHDP"), I wish to inform the Ballot Law Commission that the NHDP considers Bernie Sanders to be a Democrat fully qualified to have his name placed on the ballot for the New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary scheduled for February 9, 2016. A previous letter that I wrote in this regard is also enclosed.

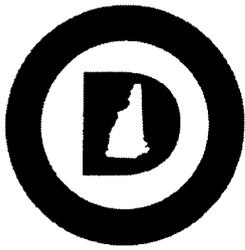
Further, I write to the Commission to note my objection to the Commission engaging in any effort to determine if a declared candidate, such as Senator Sanders, is qualified as a Democrat. The internal operations of the NHDP are not a proper consideration for the Commission. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Pt. 1, Art. 32 of the New Hampshire Constitution both protect the rights of the members of the NHDP to associate with whoever they choose. Any effort by the Commission to examine the credentials of Senator Sanders as a Democrat violates these rights to freely associate and to form together the organization that is the NHDP. I ask that the Ballot Law Commission refrain from this exercise because it is patently unconstitutional.

I plan to attend the hearing scheduled in this matter on November 24, 2015 and will be available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raymond Buckley,
Chair



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Hon. William M. Gardner
Secretary of State
The State House
Concord, NH 03301

October 7, 2015

Dear Secretary Gardner;

The New Hampshire Democratic Party is a duly recognized political party pursuant to R.S.A. 652:11. The New Hampshire Democratic Party is dedicated to justice, equality, and freedom, the principles that form the bedrock of our great Nation. The New Hampshire Democratic Party fosters accountable leadership that moves in concert with the needs of its members. Further, the New Hampshire Democratic Party embraces a diversity of political philosophies and conducts itself according to the wishes of the majority of its membership. The major priorities of the New Hampshire Democratic Party are to elect Democrats to public offices, to enlarge its membership, and to function in an open and democratic manner, consistent with its Constitution and the laws of the United States and the State of New Hampshire. The ultimate goal of the New Hampshire Democratic Party is to aid our government to perform effectively as a true democracy, representative of all the people.

The New Hampshire Democratic Party considers Senator Bernie Sanders to be a member of the Democratic Party and supports the placement of his name into nomination as a Democratic candidate for president in the 2016 New Hampshire Primary.

Senator Sanders has been nominated in his home state of Vermont as a Democrat for elected offices as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and for the U.S. Senate. Senator Sanders is currently nominated as a Democratic candidate for president of the United States in Vermont and will appear on the Vermont ballot as a Democrat in the 2016 primary. Senator Sanders supports the ideals of the New Hampshire Democratic Party. Finally, Senator Sanders was invited to speak at the state convention of the New Hampshire Democratic Party as a Democratic candidate for president. The state convention was held on September 19, 2015 in Manchester, New Hampshire and was attended by the state party's leadership and over 4,200 attendees. Senator Sanders candidacy was well received by those in attendance at the convention.

The Democratic National Committee considers Senator Bernie Sanders to be a member of the Democratic Party. Senator Sanders was included as a speaker at the most recent meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Minneapolis, Minnesota and will be appearing at multiple other Democratic National Committee sponsored events including the six debates of the Democratic presidential candidates. Senator Sanders has been

included in all events and forums hosted by our early state siblings. Iowa, Nevada and South Carolina all consider Senator Sanders a Democratic candidate for president.

For these reasons, the New Hampshire Democratic Party supports his inclusion on the New Hampshire ballot as a Democrat.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions – (603) 225-6899 or chairman@nhdp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond Buckley
State Chair
New Hampshire Democratic Party

Vice Chair
Democratic National Committee