

**SEAN MAHONEY
27 AUSTIN STREET
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801**

April 6, 2010

Chairman Michael Steele
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
310 First Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

RE: Protest Resignation

Dear Chairman Steele:

I established two goals when I volunteered to serve as the Republican National Committeeman for New Hampshire in 2007. The first was to protect and preserve the Granite State's First-In-The-Nation presidential primary status. The second was to promote the cause of limited government and individual liberty by helping to elect likeminded candidates.

As to my first goal, I am honored to have done my part to ensure that the Republican National Committee for the first time codified a rule preserving New Hampshire's traditional role in the presidential primary nominating calendar. As I stated many times during countless debates and discussions on this matter, the neighbor-to-neighbor style of grassroots campaigning politicians must employ in the Granite State is exactly the kind of citizen-powered participation institutions like the RNC need to nurture. It amused me to no end to watch the frazzled reactions of Washington politicians as regular Americans challenged them at town hall meetings last August as though it was the first time they had heard from a concerned citizen and taxpayer. It reminded me of the kind of energetic civic participation and accountability Granite Staters expect.

I'm sad to say that my second goal remains unfulfilled, however.

Not only has the out-of-touch, free-spending culture of Washington come to completely dominate the United States Congress, but I have watched with growing unease as the same mentality has seeped into our own national party.

At the end of 2008, I was proud to co-sponsor a resolution opposing future government bailouts of private industries like President George W. Bush's TARP. It was disheartening that we even had to take such a drastic measure against the leaders of our own party.

Today, our party leaders point fingers and lament out of control spending – the billions in additional bailouts, a trillion in so-called stimulus spending, a trillion in ObamaCare

spending, but they fail to acknowledge that Republicans are part of the problem, Republicans got this ball rolling.

When given the chance to oppose the Bush administration's ill-conceived TARP bailout, many of the go-along-to-get-along rubber stamps in Congress from our party turned their backs on the small businesses that create jobs on Main Street, supporting instead the big Wall Street banks that helped create the current economic mess in the first place. Now we have an unfettered federal government owning or controlling the auto industry, the banks, insurance companies, the school loan industry and now health care for every American.

The recent scandal involving RNC funds being used to entertain a small crowd at a Los Angeles strip club is the straw that broke the camel's back. The scandal represents a pattern of unaccountable and irresponsible mishaps that ought to unnerve every fiscal conservative. Overspending on private planes, limousines, remodeling, catered parties and high-priced junkets demonstrates a complete lack of respect for RNC donors; a lack of respect that was spelled out all too clearly in a leaked PowerPoint presentation that mocked our Committee's own donors.

Mr. Chairman, do I need to remind you that the Republican Party is supposed to be the conservative party?

Let me be clear so that there is no misunderstanding. I don't care if the \$2,000 was spent in February at a strip club or a family pizza parlor. This is a matter of principle. That \$2,000 should have been used to promote our conservative ideals. That \$2,000 could have been spent on radio ads to defeat my Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter, or any number of vulnerable Democrats across the country. The RNC's donors have entrusted those of us who have had the honor to serve in the RNC with a great responsibility. The RNC has let them down.

Thus, it is with profound disappointment that I tender my resignation today as Republican National Committeeman for New Hampshire. I have concluded that there simply has to be a more productive and meaningful way to serve the causes I care most about — preserving what's left of our individual liberties, restoring the liberties we have lost and drastically reducing the size and scope of the federal government.

On April 15th, for example, hundreds of thousands, probably millions, of ordinary Americans all across the country will make a statement that Washington is out of control and out of touch. Mr. Chairman, please don't be under the misapprehension that they will be speaking only of President Obama and the Democrats in Congress. All of Washington has earned their scorn, from the greedy earmarkers of both parties to the social engineers who think they can "provide health care" by mandating health insurance to party leaders who spend limited campaign dollars lavishly and irresponsibly.

The powerful in Washington will belittle these folks and dismiss their list of legitimate grievances. As for me, I would prefer to stand with the hundreds of concerned taxpayers

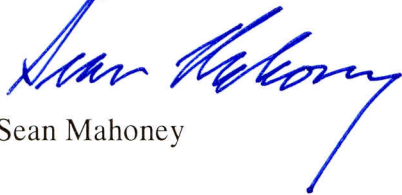
in Manchester, New Hampshire who have courageously cut back their family budgets to make ends meet rather than with a crowd of self-important politicians who spend other people's money with reckless disregard.

I truly believe that the RNC can and should serve a critical role in promoting the principles that so many of us hold dear – limited government, personal freedom and individual responsibility. However, the Committee has clearly lost its way. I hope that this recent scandal will be a wake up call to the Committee that it is time to focus on promoting our core principles and supporting the many fine candidates who fight for them.

In the meantime, those of us who hold these principles dear must find other ways to move the conservative agenda forward – by standing with the Tea Parties and conservative activists; supporting our State Republican Committees; and most importantly working to help elect candidates who share our conservative beliefs.

I am not leaving the fight. Now more than ever we need conservative leadership. I plan on doing everything in my power over the next seven months to make sure that 2010 is an historic election year for Republicans. I sincerely hope that come November the RNC can look back and say that it did the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Mahoney", with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Sean Mahoney