

Theodore Block
Delray Beach, Florida

February 3, 2020

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio,

This is a rather lengthy letter and since I am aware that you and your staff are busy, I will summarize the key points upfront. Read on if you choose to.

- You say that removing an impeached president might not be in the best interests of the country. But I fear, in this case it appears you and Donald Trump chose not what is in the best interest of the country but what is in your own best interests.
- You say that even if the allegations against Trump are true, removal is not supported by most Americans. The polls say differently.
- You believe that because this is an election year, the people should choose, even though you know that Trump has already tried to rig that election and will continue to do so if there are no consequences for his actions.
- You voted against having witnesses testify in the Senate trial despite the fact that 75% of all Americans wanted witnesses to appear. Is that your idea of “letting the people choose?”
- In the 2016 primaries you called Trump a con man, dangerous and unqualified. He has proven all of those points, yet you do not believe his actions should be punished.

And now, the rest of the letter:

I write this letter in utter frustration and disgust with regard to your position on the impeachment and potential removal of President Donald John Trump.

I write this because I am deeply embarrassed as a resident of Florida having you as one of my two representatives in the Senate of the United States, the self-proclaimed "world's greatest deliberative body."

Your statement, "Just because actions meet a standard of impeachment does not mean it is in the best interest of the country to remove a president from office," can be in some cases, correct. But in this case is wrong. Wrong because it seems that you, and most regrettably Donald Trump, chose what is “in the best interest of the country” based on what is in your own “best interest.”

You wrote, that even assuming the allegations that Trump attempted to bribe the Ukrainian government by withholding military aid and demanding officials launch an investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden are true, the impact of removing the president would harm the nation because removal is not supported by most Americans.

Have you read the polls?

A poll released late last month by Microsoft News showed that 55% of Americans backed removing Trump from office. Last week, a Politico/Morning Consult survey showed that 47% of the public supported removal while only 45% opposed. (Yes, before you challenge me, I know that 47% is not “most,” but it is “most” of the public who have an opinion in that poll).

You, and most of your colleagues believe that because it is an election year, we should let the “people choose.”

But that belief has to be informed by the fact that one of the candidates, Donald Trump, has already tried to enlist a foreign country to help him cheat in 2020 by interfering in that election. The fact that you and your Republican colleagues are letting him get away with this cheating means you’ve given him carte blanche to cheat even more. And you know he will... that’s what he always does, that’s his character...because there was no retribution for what he was already guilty of.

Beyond that, your actions will also give free rein to every foreign government and U.S. adversary to interfere with the election if they believe Donald Trump is an asset and an aid to achieving their goals...goals which might run counter to the interests of the United States.

Your rationale for not removing Trump is not just spurious; it is, more importantly, dangerous.

Having said that, your vote against hearing witnesses was egregious.

Why, may I ask, is receiving as much first-hand information from people “in the room where it happened” like former National Security Advisor John Bolton and Lev Parnas, the Rudy Giuliani associate and an associate of Donald Trump (despite Trump’s provably untrue declarations to the contrary) a bad thing?

Is it because you and your colleagues say that the House should have done it; that same House that was blocked or threatened to be blocked from calling certain witnesses? Isn’t this issue more critically important to the nation, to our democracy, than quibbles over process, particularly if it was Trump allies who impeded the process?

Trials, and this is supposed to be a trial, have witnesses. Unless, of course, the jurors who swore an oath to “... do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws,” so help them God, are not only not impartial but also make the rules.

By the way, your vote against witness testimony is in conflict with polling that shows 75% of the American public, that is the entire American public including Republicans, wants to see more witnesses called to testify.

So much for letting the people decide!

Let me close with this. In 2016 you called Donald Trump a “con man” who was “dangerous” and “unqualified” to control the nation’s nuclear codes. You ridiculed his manhood and warned he would “fracture” the Republican Party if he was the nominee.

Well, some of your predictions came to fruition: Donald Trump has proven to be a con man, as well as dangerous and unqualified. Where you were wrong was about the “fracture” of the Republican party. Rather than fracture it, the party has coalesced around this dangerous con man and, in so doing, has abrogated its Congressional responsibility to oversee the Executive branch. This is what that voters elected you and your colleagues to do. Sadly, for strictly partisan reasons, you are not doing your job.

To paraphrase a very famous admonition made to another Republican senator many years ago:
"Senator Rubio, have you no shame?"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore Block". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Theodore Block