

## **An Open Letter to Paul Ryan, Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush and Other Republican Leaders**

First let me preface this by saying I was not a supporter of Donald Trump. I originally backed Scott Walker and then Senator Cruz. As a Nevada State Assemblyman I even went so far as to join the Cruz Leadership Team in Nevada and campaigned for him throughout our great state. That said, I cannot believe the vitriol and broken promises I have been hearing since Mr. Trump became the presumptive nominee.

Speaker Ryan: By saying you “are not there yet” in supporting the Republican nominee, you are sending a message to the rest of the party and the electorate at large, that unless you get the candidate you want, the rest of the party can do without your support. How soon we forget.

In 2012 you joined the ticket with Governor Romney in what should have been one of the easiest elections for Republicans to win in years. Our party was divided and our party leaders, you included, said we must come together as a party in order to win. Even though our ticket was not my first choice, I made sure to support the party’s choice and even worked the local area on yours and Gov. Romney’s behalf, as did hundreds of thousands of other Republicans throughout this country. It seems to me that the establishment (I really hate that word but use it for lack of a better one) uses party unity to achieve their goals, but abandons it when their candidate doesn’t win.

Governor Bush, Senator Graham, and other Presidential Candidates: One of the biggest problems we have in our politics today is not keeping our word. All candidates signed a pledge to support the eventual republican Nominee. While I realize none of you (me included) thought Donald Trump would be that person, you gave your word. The very existence of Mr. Trump as the nominee should give you pause and reason to believe that our electorate is changing.

When looking back at the race we see that the electorate is angry. Very angry. Why? In my opinion it is because we have not kept our word to our constituents. Most candidates have learned that to get elected you have to say what the people want to hear. But that is not enough. Once elected you have to live up to your promises even if you don’t share the exact same view. You see, people hire us with their votes. They hire us to do a job. If any of you have ever worked in the private sector, you will have realized that you will be fired by those bosses if you don’t live up to the expectation you presented when hired. There have been times in my career as a Legislator where I vote for something I am not thrilled with but know my constituents want. I’m sure you can all say the same in your careers. I suggest you keep your word and thereby your integrity.

In closing, I would like to remind you of the alternative to a vote for Trump in the general election. While I have not reached a point yet where I completely trust Mr. Trumps promises, I will support him. After all, if he does half of what he says, it would be head and shoulders above a Clinton Presidency.

Sincerely,

Jim Wheeler,  
Nevada State Assemblyman