



June 25, 2017

To the Accreditation Committee of the Green Party of the United States

We believe that the GPUS should immediately dismiss the appeal for intervention submitted to the Steering and Accreditation Committees on June 14, 2017, based on the following information in a few key areas.

These accusations within the appeal would be serious if they had any basis in fact. Andrea Mérida Cuéllar's conduct has been within GPUS guidelines and in the spirit of the Green Party at all times. The accusers did not use any of the democratic avenues for resolution before this appeal for intervention was filed. Not only have the signed parties (a) failed to use the state party's council proposal process to overturn any co-chair decisions, recall/censure any elected state officers directly, or remove/bar any of the parties from GPCO; (b) The filers knowingly submitted this grievance with falsified signatures of support; (c) they immediately declined conflict resolution, which demonstrates that their intent is discord, not collaboration.

Even more to the point, the grievance filers are asking GPUS to take unprecedented action: to attempt to unseat our democratically-elected officers, elected with overwhelming majorities. The GPUS doesn't have legal standing to enact this in the state of Colorado, and an action of that caliber would grossly violate our shared Green value of decentralization.

Therefore, because of the above mentioned breaches of procedure, we feel compelled to respond.

The grievants knowingly submitted their document containing two fraudulent signatures. Arn Menconi and Scott Olson were contacted by Harry Hempy via email to ask them to sign the appeal **36 hours after the appeal was filed with the GPUS Steering and Accreditation Committees**. Regardless, Harry Hempy and Judy Harrington filed the document, listing their signatures.

From: Harry Hempy <harryhempy@gmail.com>
Date: June 15, 2017 at 6:06:24 PM MDT
To: Arn Menconi <arn@armenconi.com>, Scott Olson <scott@dolphinmile.org>
Subject: Restoring Green Values in Colorado

Arn and Scott, I has been a while since we were in a campaign together. We have, somehow, survived and remained more or less sane.

I am very concerned about the conduct of the GPCO elections, scheduled for August 12. I have signed [this petition](#) for the Green Party of the United States to intervene in Colorado.

Please read it carefully and sign if you agree.

-Harry

PS: Forward at will.

The recall of former co-chair Bill Bartlett was a collaborative effort between Poudre Valley (Bartlett's claimed local at the time) and Arapahoe County. The main issues surrounding Bartlett's conduct were misogyny and repeatedly using language of white supremacy, and after receiving a letter from a longtime Green expressing concerns about this behavior, Dave Bell and Sean Friend pursued a recall, against Andrea Mérida Cuéllar's requests to wait until after the November election to act. Additionally, Bill Bartlett threatened Andrea with physical violence while intoxicated at a high-traffic outreach event for the state party. It's also worth noting that Bartlett resigned before the recall proposal passed, interrupting the voting period.

The accusation that Andrea Mérida Cuéllar removed her co-chair is not only completely unfounded, but also impossible based on our bylaws and is not supported by the facts.

On the issue of centralization of power.

It is unreasonable to make the claim that a co-chair being an administrator on party communication/voting tools and social media accounts is “centralizing power”. For many years before Andrea was democratically elected to the co-chair position, the previous co-chair was the sole administrator of our communication/voting tools and social media accounts, which is allowed under our procedures and necessary for the mission when volunteers are scant.

On the topic of issue 9 of the appeal, Rejecting Bernie Supporters.

Denver Green, Vinnie Cervantes is quoted below, with permission:

“Not only did I caucus for Bernie, I started the Auraria Students for Sanders group at Auraria Campus which became the earliest and most active college campus in the state organizing for the caucus. I also started the Cap Hill for Bernie group and served on a small creative team reporting directly to the state director. Additionally, I served as a surrogate of Bernie himself [...] and I was charged with organizing his visit to the Colorado Convention Center which saw 18,000+ people turn out to see Bernie (I had to be vetted twice by secret service to do this). In August 2015, many of the prominent organizers from around the state met at an apartment in Cap Hill to make our individual organizing efforts a statewide movement, a structure that was later adopted by the national campaign to win Washington and Oregon. From that meeting also came the formation of [Colorado Political Revolution](#), a group that was meant to sustain the energy from the campaign to create long-term political agency in Colorado. We had the intent to be a group that fostered efforts both in the Democratic Party and in other parties such as the Greens (where I ended up because of the hospitality of Andrea Mérida Cuéllar). But that effort has been mired by the fact that reactionary groups sprang up following the primary such as Our Revolution, Brand New Congress, DemEnter, and Indivisible; all groups that have co-opted revolutionary energy to drive it back into the Democratic Party.

I say this because while I favor the notion of welcoming people into the Green Party and being willing and able to work with people outside of our party, I also don't think that their feelings should supersede our mission of creating a better, more equitable world. [...] Some of these progressives may not have realized the futility of working within the Democratic Party, but in doing so, they also actively organize against us when it comes to racial, social, economic, and environmental justice.

I believe I've done a lot in the realm of organizing for racial justice and against police brutality through Denver Justice Project. And in the realm of workers' rights and economic justice through Colorado Jobs with Justice. And against gentrification and for equitable learning through Casa Mayan. Yet I've been constant witness to fellow Berniecrats and progressives disregard all of that work in addition to what I did for Bernie's campaign to dismiss my opinion because I voted for Jill Stein and joined the Green Party. That tells me that they are more comfortable with me voting for their candidate than fighting for the actual issues progressives claim to support.

(F)or me, I think it's important to keep priorities in mind. I'm interested in aiming critique while punching up instead of down, and I'd rather call out Democrats that claim themselves to be progressives while actively working against us instead of aiming critique at our own Greens who may not be fostering the hurt feelings of people who don't like that their analysis might be wrong. Right now, I'm prioritizing the work I already do with the groups I mentioned in addition to ensuring that [Julie Banuelos for Education](#) gets elected to the Denver school

board. I look forward to our future success and organizing efforts and am thankful to have a Party to be part of that I was fortunately welcomed into by Andrea.”

Vinnie’s sentiments are shared by many former Sanders supporters active in our state party, who range from rank-and-file activists to even local chairs. Josh James, chair of the Longmont Green Party (one of our state party’s newest locals) offers his take.

”I was the key person in initiating the Longmont Chapter. I (absolutely foolishly so) supported (phone banked, and donated) Sanders’ run for a whole year until after the California Primary. I will never vote for, or endorse, anyone running under the Democratic Party ever again after the factual discoveries I uncovered. I immediately changed my registration from independent to Green and began campaigning and organizing by myself in Longmont. I was very aware of Stein and had voted for Greens in many previous elections when I could (from NC). Point is, I, as well as many others who were keeping their eyes open, made the independent analysis that the Democratic Party is one of the oldest most dangerous, destructive, oppressive forces of empire this world has ever seen. Fact.

In some of my first conversations with Andrea I told her that I came here somewhat via Bernie Sanders, and she told me that she didn’t fault me for that, that it was a logical course of action. She was the most helpful person in the Colorado Green Party during the campaigns for Stein/Baraka and Arn Menconi, providing me literature, flyers, contacts, etc. for both campaigns. The claims that this document are making are absolutely false from my experience. I know of many former Sanders campaign supporters that were not discouraged from joining the Green Party when dealing with Andrea. I think the point is that if one continues to support or give relevance to any group supporting the Democratic Party that person is doing so against the values of the Green Party. Those are not the people that deserve our prime focus.”

The procedures of the GPUS Accreditation Committee state clearly that “Greens who wish to lodge a complaint or grievance against an affiliated Green Party in the state in which they reside or a caucus with which they identify **must first exhaust the complaint process of that state’s Green Party** or caucus.” The grievants have failed to meet even that basic requirement and additionally, they ask the national party to ignore its boundaries of jurisdiction and overturn our state party’s democratic decisions. We ask the Accreditation Committee of the GPUS to decline to intervene in this matter.

In Solidarity,

Dave Bell, co-chair, Green Party of Colorado
Sean Friend, secretary, Green Party of Colorado
Merrily Mazza, Lafayette City Council, Boulder County
Eric Fried, former secretary, Green Party of Colorado.
Karyna Lemus, chair, Green Party of the Pikes Peak Region
Samuel Cable, state council delegate, Green Party of the Pikes Peak Region
Jacob Foreman, Green Party of the Pikes Peak Region
Lawrence Dunn, co-chair, Adams County Green Party
Roberta Ayala, co-chair, Adams County Green Party
Damian Gonzales, secretary, Adams County Green Party
Tina Gonzales Tuff, registered Green, Adams County

Jason Tuff, registered Green, Adams County
Theresa Torres, registered Green, Adams County
Bud Torres, registered Green, Adams County
Joshua James, chair, Longmont Green Party
Véronique Bellamy, state council delegate, Longmont Green Party
Evan Vann, chair, Ouray County Green Party
Erik Troe, secretary, Denver Green Party
Amanda Trujillo, former co-chair, Denver Green Party
Caelia Chapin, state council alternate delegate, Denver Green Party
Julie Bañuelos, Denver Green Party
Vinnie Cervantes, Denver Green Party
Desmond Hartless, state council delegate, Denver Green Party
Lorraine Heth, Denver Green Party
Carole Oyler, Denver Green Party
Delbert "D.J." Razee, Denver Green Party
Jonathan Cunningham, state council delegate, Denver Green Party
Ashley Leal, Denver Green Party
Jason Justice, state council delegate, Denver Green Party
Andy Hamilton, chair, Mesa County Green Party
Sierra Garcia-Lock, state council delegate, Mesa County Green Party
Shane McDonnell, state council delegate, Mesa County Green Party
KC Terry, co-chair, Poudre Valley Green Party
Zach Heath, co-chair, Poudre Valley Green Party
Jerry Gerber, treasurer, Poudre Valley Green Party
John Anderson, state council delegate, Poudre Valley Green Party
Nancy York, Poudre Valley Green Party
Barry McCann, original member, Poudre Valley Green Party
Jessica Glycenfer, registered Green Larimer County
Maria Winnie, registered Green Larimer County
Tenaya Heredia, registered Green Larimer County
Brianna Friend, state council delegate, Arapahoe County Green Party
Linda Templin, Arapahoe County Green Party
Joshua Colky, Arapahoe County Green Party
Kris Uney, Arapahoe County Green Party
Victoria Lindsey, co-chair, Eagle County Green Party (in formation)