

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Edward Sagebiel, Director, Government Affairs (Michigan & Ohio), LillyPAC & Employee Grassroots  
CC: David Ricks, CEO, Eli Lilly and Company  
307 East McCarty Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225

**RE: Eli Lilly's False Assertion That Election Objectors Learned Their Lesson After January 6th**

Dear Mr. Sagebiel:

On behalf of Accountable.US, we appreciated [your response](#) on February 10th to our correspondence encouraging Eli Lilly to call on Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to fully cooperate with the U.S. House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States. We maintain that Leader McCarthy would take your company's request seriously given the significant donations Eli Lilly and Company PAC made to his campaign, including [\\$5,000](#) last quarter.

Further, we must take issue with your assertion: **"[W]e believe that our actions to pause our political contributions [to Republicans in Congress that voted against certifying the 2020 election] were heard—and had an impact."**

Regardless of how your company concluded that the election objectors in Congress effectively learned their lesson, it is clear based on their words and actions since the deadly coup attempt that your message was entirely ignored.

[Our review of](#) campaign finance records shows Eli Lilly, its affiliated trade groups, and its executives contributed \$82,000 in 2021 to members of what has been dubbed the 'Sedition Caucus'. Nearly all these donations came after a pivotal vote in the U.S. House on June 30th, 2021 to establish the Select Committee to investigate the January 6th attack – and every one of these lawmakers, including Leader McCarthy, either voted against establishing it or refused to vote at all.

As you know, this committee is the primary vehicle in Congress for getting to the bottom of what happened that day, who was involved, and how further assaults on our democracy can be avoided in the future. The lawmakers you assert 'heard' your message made a concerted effort to keep the public in the dark about what led to the insurrection and to keep bad actors from facing responsibility. How is that demonstrating a "respect for our democratic process and institutions" which the company [claimed](#) to value after the insurrection?

Not one of these lawmakers has ever walked back from their embrace of Donald Trump's Big Lie – [instead many](#) including Congressman Greg Pence (IN-6) and Lloyd Smucker (PA-11), have only doubled down on dangerous election conspiracy theories despite the fires and Confederate Flags that desecrated the U.S. Capitol as the result of those lies.

In the insurrection's aftermath, your company [drew a line against](#) "[A]nyone who promoted violence or sedition that contributed to the appalling events on January 6th or who continues to support violence to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power our democracy is founded upon." The election objectors your company resumed donations to never stopped crossing it.

Rewarding these clearly unapologetic election objectors with big campaign checks simply flies in the face of your company's [stated goal](#) of being a "unifying force in our democracy".

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Or take for example Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19), whom your company's PAC gave \$1,000 to on September 22, 2021. On the one-year anniversary of the Capitol riot, Arrington [told a local news](#) outlet that the events that day were "dramatized and mischaracterized". He went on: "[T]o hold it out as the worst act of lawlessness and affront to democracy is at best disingenuous."

Does this honestly sound like someone who "heard" your message during your political-giving pause, and internalized it?

At the end of the day, it comes down to being straight with your consumers, shareholders, and employees. Eli Lilly can either align the company's political spending with its stated values in support of democracy -- or be open about its real values, which appears to be cultivating political influence in Congress no matter what extreme views the lawmakers hold.

If Eli Lilly is content to donate to those in Congress who tried to overthrow the will of the people, or even those who seek to suppress millions of voters of color by opposing federal voting protections, it can no longer credibly claim to be a "unifying force in our democracy". And the company should not be surprised when publicly challenged on it.

Sincerely,



Kyle Herrig

President, Accountable.US