



April 22, 2019

## OPEN LETTER TO WA STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY WA HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Dear Fellow Washingtonians:

It is past time to do something about Matt Shea.

Republican Representative Matt Shea (R-Spokane Valley) crossed the decency line for most Washingtonians years ago with his unethical and vocal support for dangerous right-wing militias, anti-LGBTQ, and racist groups. With this [new information](#) about Shea's participation in planning surveillance and violence against peaceful protesters, has he finally crossed the line for the WA GOP and the House Republicans?"

Matt Shea's extreme and dangerous ideological record is well-documented, including:

1. Shea organized the Spokane chapter of the [anti-Muslim ACT for America](#), which the Southern Poverty Law Center classifies as a hate group;
2. Shea is closely tied to the anti-government extremist movement, [American Redoubt](#);
3. Shea is a vocal supporter of the [anti-public lands](#) extremist movement;
4. Shea is closely affiliated with members of the anti-government [militia movement](#);
5. Shea's surplus campaign account made a [\\$3,500 donation](#) to the anti-Muslim hate group Americans for America of Centennial and a [\\$2,000 donation](#) to an [anti-semitic](#) Christian Identity group called Citizens for Free Speech;
6. Shea was the [master of ceremonies](#) for the "Red Pill Expo," a gathering of extremist conspiracy theorists;
7. Shea's [Patriot Radio](#) show is often based on reports from InfoWars and the far-right World Net Daily, both of which the Southern Poverty Law Center lists as anti-government, conspiracy and propaganda sites; and
8. Shea's "[Biblical basis for war](#)" states that before a declaration of war, the enemy must be given the opportunity to "stop all abortions," end "same-sex marriage,"

eliminate “idolatry or occultism” and ban “communism,” and that everyone “must obey Biblical Law.” If the enemy does “not yield,” the manifesto states, then “kill all the males.” Spokane County Sheriff Knezovich [called](#) it a “‘how to’ manual consistent with the ideology and operating philosophy of the Christian Identity/Aryan Nations movement.”

Matt Shea’s personal actions are equally disturbing:

1. Shea [pulled a loaded gun](#) on another motorist in a high speed road rage incident;
2. Shea threatened his political opponent by [posting pictures](#) of himself outside her home in 2012;
3. Shea has called reporters "[dirty, godless, hateful](#)";
4. Shea has been accused of [domestic violence and abuse](#);
5. Shea has been [sued for defamation](#) by local law enforcement; and
6. Shea is an [allied attorney](#) with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a [hate group](#) that has supported the recriminalization of homosexuality in the U.S. and criminalization abroad.

You don’t have to be a student of history to recognize the dangers that people like Matt Shea pose to our hard-won democracy. I hope that Donald Trump’s rhetoric and actions have not numbed you to the point where you can no longer recognize corrupt and dangerous elements inside your own walls. The House Republican Caucus took the right step when you stripped him of his leadership role, now it’s time to take a strong stand.

We are joining WA Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib in calling for the State House Republican Caucus to completely oust Shea, protecting important state policy matters from his influence. We also call on the State Republican Party to formally condemn and sanction Representative Shea. To do anything less is to condone and support the cancerous growth of extremism within your own ranks.

Sincerely,



Tina Podlowski, Chair  
Washington State Democrats