

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2019

Jeff Zucker
CNN
30 Hudson Yards
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mr. Zucker:

As a press organization utilizing the freedom of the press guaranteed to you in the First Amendment, it is particularly disheartening to see you suppressing the free speech of federal political candidates, potentially in violation of federal law and Supreme Court precedent.

As your news organization seems to have lost all sense of objectivity, spinning itself into oblivion to support left-leaning candidates and participating in distortions against conservative candidates, you have still operated within the boundaries of the First Amendment. CNN has the right to spout your political commentators' opinions while millions of Americans change the channel to something else. The law of the land and Supreme Court precedent protect your right to be loudly wrong.

Your decision, however, to disallow advertising from the sitting President of the United States, a man duly elected to that post despite your best efforts, is a step that falls beyond your First Amendment protections, and one that we believe is in violation of the law and the Constitution.

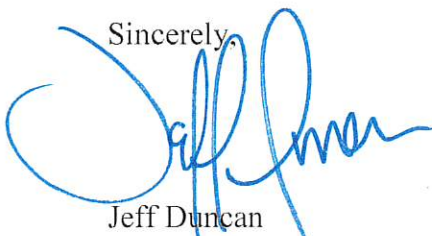
In the landmark *Buckley v. Valeo* case, the Supreme Court wrote:

Discussion of public issues and debate on the qualifications of candidates are integral to the operation of the system of government established by our Constitution. The First Amendment affords the broadest protection to such political expression in order 'to assure (the) unfettered interchange of ideas for the bringing about of political and social changes desired by the people.'

Your decision to reject political ads by President Trump, while still running ads for Democrat candidates, violates the *Buckley* principles laid out by the Supreme Court. Particularly concerning is your own rationale that your organization chose not to run the ad in part because it “disparage(d) CNN and its journalists.” Being personally offended is truly a poor reason to deny a candidate for public office the right to be heard, running contrary to both the intent of the *Buckley* decision and the self-proclaimed First Amendment values of your network.

We urge you to correct this flagrant violation with all due haste and allow the paid Trump Campaign advertisements to return to your airwaves immediately. We await your response.

Sincerely,



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

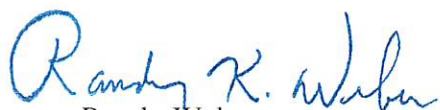
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Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



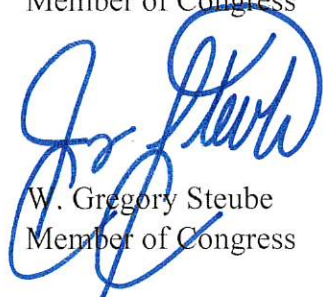
Louie Gohmert
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Russ Fulcher
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Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
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