

*Response sent by Mike Desjadon Campaign:*

**“A Fair Process for the 6<sup>th</sup> District Republican Convention**

(Augusta County, VA) – Early today the campaigns of Ben Cline, Chaz Haywood, Douglas Wright, Ed Justo and Kathryn Lewis released a joint statement calling for a fair process at our Convention on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the James Madison University Convocation Center. The statement calls for an election by majority vote achieved through multiple rounds of voting, an independent chair and fair representation on the various committees; all very reasonable and worthy expectations for an election this critical.

In their statement they cited multiple alleged conflicts of interest among various members of the 6<sup>th</sup> District Committee stemming from the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at Natural Bridge Station and thus called into question the potential legitimacy of the process as it is currently progressing. I did not join the statement as I was not at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, nor had I filed my candidacy yet so didn't personally witness the goings on at that meeting or at meetings prior. As I'm still getting to know some of the people referenced but have yet to meet most I won't presume to call their motivations into question. I'm sure they're good people. I'm not interested in taking sides or playing games so I will instead offer comment on the process.

*This is a federal election. Our district will nominate a new candidate to represent us in Washington for the first time since 1993 and it's critical the process is above reproach and the candidate nominated has legitimacy and a unified party behind them. Regular people understand fair and right when they see it; it's really not that hard and seldom are there many different versions of it. In short, it's easy to be fair and open. If there are questions regarding the various factions emerging in this election and who might support whom, why bother debating their veracity and making a spectacle of our Convention in the process? Let's just get some outside folks with convention experience that all sides can agree on. Whether any impropriety is real or imagined so long as its public it doesn't really matter much, the Democrats will use it to undermine our candidate before the JMU parking lot empties the night of the 19<sup>th</sup>. We can't allow that. Multiple rounds of balloting resulting in the victory of a candidate by way of majority vote is not only the most fair process, it's one of the arguments for holding a Convention rather than a primary in the first place. We want our candidate to face the Democrats with a majority of Republicans behind them. Otherwise why not just hold a primary and avoid the potential impropriety?*