

Response sent by Scott Sayre, 6th District GOP Chair:

It is sad that the two career politicians, Ben Cline and Chaz Haywood, have chosen since the start of the campaigns to replace their former boss, Bob Goodlatte, to conduct themselves in a manner unworthy of the office they seek. Cline's continued personal attacks on the District Chairman, the District Committee leaders, the Convention Committee chairs and the Convention process by use of political half-truths undermines the support he seeks from the very persons he is campaigning to serve. Email and Facebook content viciously and salaciously disparaging candidates and others challenging him have become all too common. What is missing from the front page news Cline seeks to gain is the absolute refusal of the other three candidates to participate in this mudslinging.

The content of Cline's press release belies his continued clamor for transparency and fairness regarding the convention process.

By refusing to work in an open manner with district volunteer leaders, Cline has chosen to permeate the atmosphere with a cloud of distrust and has recruited candidates with no experience in running for office or attending a convention to hitch their wagons to a candidate who cannot win an election without their collusion. Just last night Cline revealed plans to replace a proposed experienced convention chairman who has the respect of all with someone else who will guarantee the convention is run Cline's way.

The District Chairman has maintained from the beginning that the Convention delegates will adopt the rules they wish to follow. That is not only fair, it is the way all conventions are conducted. Cline's demand for a convention that throws out the rules by which all conventions follow, allowing the delegates to decide, is proof positive that he is dead afraid of a process that has been placed in the voter's hands and leaves him, an elected official, without the means to manipulate the process without the aid of uninformed participants.

Claims by Cline of misconduct by any of the district committee leaders have proven unfounded and actually upon investigation reveal his campaign and those associated with him as the culprit in most reported events.