



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

March 2, 2022

Jackie Schutz Zeckman
Executive Director
National Republican Senatorial Committee
425 Second Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Support for Senators Who Voted Against Certifying the 2020 Election

Dear Ms. Zeckman,

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) respectfully requests that the National Republican Senatorial Committee (“NRSC”) commit to not providing direct or indirect campaign support to the eight senators who on January 6 and 7, 2021 voted against certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election. Those votes undermined the democratic process by attempting to negate the results of a free and fair election, and the NRSC should not finance or assist members who attempted to disrupt the peaceful transition of power.

As you know, following Election Day on November 4, 2020, all 50 states and the District of Columbia canvassed and certified their vote counts.¹ After numerous recounts, state investigations, Department of Justice reviews, and failed legal challenges, the legitimate presidential electors met on December 14, 2020 and cast their votes, resulting in Joe Biden winning the presidential election.² Both Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy have acknowledged that President Biden won the election.³

Nevertheless, on January 6 and 7, 2021, just hours after a violent mob stormed the Capitol in an attempt to stop Congress from counting the electoral votes, eight Republican senators voted to object to certifying the electors from Arizona or Pennsylvania.⁴ There was no legitimate basis for objecting to these certifications. Rather, those votes were an attempt to nullify the results of a fair election.

¹ Liz Stark and Ethan Cohen, All 50 states and DC have now certified their presidential election results, *CNN*, Dec. 9, 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/09/politics/2020-election-results-certified/index.html>.

² Nick Corasaniti and Jim Rutenberg, Electoral College Vote Officially Affirms Biden’s Win, *New York Times*, Dec. 14, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/14/us/politics/biden-electoral-college.html>.

³ Audrey Conklin, McConnell, top GOP senators acknowledge Biden as president-elect: The Electoral College has spoken, *Fox News*, Dec. 15, 2020, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mcconnell-senate-republicans-biden-president-elect-electoral-college>; Tyler Moyer, McCarthy acknowledges Biden victory, *Bakersfield Now*, Jan. 7, 2021, <https://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/mccarthy-acknowledges-biden-victory>.

⁴ Karen Yourish, Larry Buchanan, and Denise Lu, The 147 Republicans Who Voted to Overturn Election Results, *New York Times*, Jan. 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/01/07/us/elections/electoral-college-biden-objectors.html>.

March 2, 2022

Page 2

The NRSC provides its members with many forms of direct and indirect support, which can include contributions to candidates' campaign committees and independent expenditures advocating for their election, as well as general campaign support. In the 2020 election cycle, for example, the NRSC contributed to the campaigns of several senators who later voted against certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election.⁵

We strongly urge the NRCC to declare that it will not support members who voted against certifying the election results. Doing so will demonstrate that the NRCC stands on the side of democracy and the peaceful transition of power.

We are aware that the Republican National Committee ("RNC") recently voted to censure Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, two Republican House members who serve on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, and now plans, under a special RNC rule, to provide financial and other support to Rep. Cheney's primary challenger.⁶ These apparently unprecedented steps are the exact opposite of what a responsible party committee should do. The NRSC should instead declare it will not provide any support to the eight senators who voted against certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Noah Bookbinder
President

⁵ We are well aware that one of those eight senators is Sen. Rick Scott, the chairman of the NRSC. His position should not stop the NRSC from taking the right steps as an organization.

⁶ Josh Dawsey and Felicia Sonmez, [RNC votes to condemn Cheney, Kinzinger for serving on House committee investigating Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by pro-Trump mob](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/02/03/rnc-cheney-trump/), *Washington Post*, Feb. 4, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/02/03/rnc-cheney-trump/>.