

TIM HUELSKAMP  
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

E-MAIL VIA WEBSITE:  
<http://huelskamp.house.gov/>

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1601

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

August 7, 2012

Chancellor's Office  
University of Kansas  
230 Strong Hall  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7518

Dear Chancellor Gray-Little,

It is my understanding that a petition is being circulated to remove Chik-Fil-A from the University of Kansas campus. I also understand that there is a petition to keep Chik-Fil-A at the University of Kansas.

It is clearly not the purview of any government officials or institutions to discriminate against those who may hold differing political or religious views. To do so is to violate the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Additionally, at its core, an institution of higher learning is supposed to be a place for open debate and the free flow of ideas. Kicking out a private business that is operating legally on the grounds that its leader holds a particular set of religious and political beliefs different from yours or any other official would violate the University's commitment to non-discrimination. The University of Kansas has a proud tradition of allowing people of differing views to express those views; to discriminate and undo that tradition would be a travesty.

While of course the University of Kansas can decide with which entities it enters into contracts, it is my sincerest hope that KU will not discriminate against Chik-Fil-A and renege on the terms of the contract. Furthermore, when the time comes to renew the contract in 2014, the University should not discriminate by taking a side in any political debate surrounding the comments made by Chik-Fil-A President Dan Cathy – especially because it was not that long ago that President Obama offered similar sentiments about marriage. All that matters is that Mr. Cathy runs a business that operates within the confines of the law.

It is a slippery slope to begin implementing litmus tests on the private businesses that contract with KU. It would be a dangerous precedent to make a business leader's political or religious beliefs a criterion for contracts with the University. Will suddenly certain books be banned from the University's libraries or bookstores if the authors' views run counter to what Administrators preach? Will donors be turned away if they hold certain beliefs? Will student religious groups be silenced?

WASHINGTON, DC:  
126 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2715  
FAX: (202) 225-5124

DODGE CITY:  
100 MILITARY AVENUE, SUITE 204  
P.O. Box 999  
DODGE CITY, KS 67801  
(620) 225-0172  
FAX: (620) 225-0297

HUTCHINSON:  
ONE NORTH MAIN, SUITE 525  
P.O. Box 1244  
HUTCHINSON, KS 67504  
(620) 665-6138  
FAX: (620) 665-6360

SALINA:  
119 WEST IRON AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR, SUITE A  
P.O. Box 766  
SALINA, KS 67402  
(785) 309-0572  
FAX: (785) 827-6957

For the sake of the First Amendment, I hope not. For the sake of religious liberty, I hope not.  
And for the sake of the academic freedom, I hope not. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Huelskamp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Congressman Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.  
First District of Kansas