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TO: Laura Billman
FROM: Chuck Muth
DATE: March 30, 2018

Ms. Billman, as promised I am writing today with our campaign's official response to your candidate's invitation to participate in your debate on your date at your time in your venue with your moderator under your format with your rules with your staging for your length of time and with your invited participants.

We accept. With the understanding that you will provide Mr. Hof with a captain's chair or stool that he may use if necessary between questions due to his knee surgery.

We're disappointed, but not surprised, that your candidate rejected our counter-proposal to participate in multiple public debates throughout the district over the next 10 weeks. It's laughable for Mr. Oscarson to claim he's "too busy" to do more than this one highly-scripted and staged televised debate, but we understand what's really going on.

We're also disappointed, but not surprised, that Mr. Oscarson refused our counter-proposal to have a more full and open discussion of the serious issues facing our state without forcing the candidates to distill their answers down to a mere 90 seconds.

Indeed, your insisted-upon format isn't so much a debate as a quiz show...

"I'll take Tax Hikes for \$1.2 Billion, Alex."

"In 2015 this Assemblyman from Pahrump broke his word and voted for the largest tax increase in Nevada history."

"Who is James Oscarson?"

"Correct!"

Seriously though, short 90-second sound-bite answers on complicated issues do a disservice to the voters. And one hour is simply way too short a period of time for a decision as important as who should represent District 36 in Carson City in 2019. So here's what we did...

Since Mr. Oscarson bought the 6:00 pm hour on KPVM to host his sanitized and tightly controlled “fake” debate, we bought the 7:00 pm hour immediately after on the exact same day and challenge Mr. Oscarson to stick around and have a real, face-to-face, man-to-man, one-on-one post-debate debate under the following rules...

Actually, there are no rules.

That’s what a real debate is all about. No artificial time limits on answers. No limits on topics to be discussed. No restrictions on the candidates talking directly to each other or asking each other questions. No hiding. No ducking. No running for cover.

By the way, veteran conservative national talk show host Rusty Humphries has offered to come up from Phoenix and serve as the moderator. Since you and James aren’t very familiar with anything conservative, you might have to Google him.

Now, we understand that debating “without a net” like this is probably a pretty frightening proposition for Mr. Oscarson. So Mr. Hof would like to generously offer that you be allowed to sit with him for comfort and support.

Heck, it’d even be OK if you help him with some of his answers if he gets stuck.

The only thing we ask is that your candidate keep that famous temper of his under control and not get physically violent during the broadcast – you know, the way he did at that kids hockey game several years ago which resulted in his arrest and having to take all those “anger management” courses.

Please...no relapses, OK?

Again, we know your “too busy” excuse for multiple public debates at multiple public forums throughout the district over the next ten weeks is a crock.

But the only possible excuse for ducking this challenge to simply extend your already-scheduled one-hour debate an additional hour at the exact same television station on the exact same day would be if your candidate is...what’s the word I’m looking for?...oh, yeah...

Um, chicken.

Looking forward to seeing how you try to wriggle out of this one!

Sincerely yours,



Chuck Muth
Counsel on Government Relations

cc: Dennis Hof