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S.C. LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS  
CHAIRPERSON, CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

June 10, 2010

My Beloved Legislative Black Caucus Members:

To answer your question am I bitter? The answer is yes. I am going to be bitter for a long time. **Forget my Civil Rights History**; let's just talk about my 18 years of service since I have been a State Senator. Every year, I sell 10 times more tickets than any other Caucus member. As chairman of the Civil Rights and Affirmative Action Committee, I have demanded and lobbied for across the board diversity in the hiring and promotion of African-Americans; not just in Columbia but across the state in every state agency. Some change has occurred, but not to the full degree that it should, why? Because your help and support is needed, when needed most of you have been absent. Matter of fact, most of you could care less about civil rights, or diversity or even how you got to this particular point in your life. One thing we do know, that most of you have not had to make many or any sacrifices in your position to get to this point in the struggle. Not more than three or four Caucus members have much or, if any respect for what it took to get here.

In closing, most members of the Caucus think they are serious about diversity and civil rights. But the fact that you chose to support a candidate for Governor that does not have one African American working in his law firm and never felt compelled to ask the question, why? I love and respect Vincent Sheehen, he is my suitemate and colleague. But, for the S.C. Legislative Black Caucus to allow an 18 year veteran go down for the sake of the party is a slap in the face to African Americans in this state, an outright disgrace. I am sure not one Black Caucus anywhere else in this country would allow the Democratic Party treat a black candidate like the S.C. Democratic Party treated me.

As each and every one of you know, if the shoe had been on the other foot, I will have been fighting all the way to right a wrong. Right, wrong or indifferent, I would not allow a Dick Harpootlian, John Land or Jim Hodges to run the Democratic Party like a plantation at the expense of Black candidates. Uncle Tom was alive and well before, during and after the Negro and African-American struggle in this country and obviously he is still alive today.

Sincerely,

Robert Ford  
Senate District 42