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ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND
SCIENCE EDUCATION

February 4, 2013

Wayne M. Perry, President
Boy Scouts of America
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015

Dear Mr. Perry:

For over 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America and its local chapters have taught the importance of honor, integrity, and determination. As a whole, the organization has built an outstanding reputation for instilling life principles and moral values, providing excellent role models, and promoting community service.

The Boy Scouts also have a rich history of faith and values. One of the key tenets for the Boy Scouts recognizes a "duty to God." As a former boy scout myself, I strongly believe that this tenet should **not** be compromised because faith and religious beliefs play a significant role in a child's development. Unfortunately, this tradition and these values are under attack.

The Boy Scouts of America is a private organization and has a constitutional right to set its own membership policies. As the Supreme Court held in *Boy Scouts of American v. Dale*, the First Amendment protects the freedom of association and allows private organizations to exclude expressions or members that inherently conflict with its core message.

I urge the Boy Scouts of America to refuse to give in to peer-pressure from politicians and media outlets by allowing openly gay members and adults as part of the organization. They only seek to impose their liberal agenda with reckless disregard of the impact that this significant membership policy change would have on our children. They fail to recognize that such a significant change to membership policies would compromise the overall message of the Boy Scouts, undermine its spiritual principles, and create conflicting membership policies among local chapters.

I strongly oppose this policy change and urge the Boy Scouts of America to stand firm on traditional and moral values. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office. I look forward to discussing this issue with you if you so desire.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

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