

Land Rights Network
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Boycott Minn. St Paul Airport For Civil Rights Violations of Craig

Urge the airport authorities to apologize to Senator Larry Craig for the arrest.

Boycott Northwest Airlines as well. They are helping pay the salaries of the policemen who mistakenly arrested Senator Larry Craig.

Larry Craig did not do anything. These policemen have a profile and they simply arrest people who follow parts of the profile. In this case no actual sexual activity ever took place. They claimed that because of the profile, they knew he was looking for sex. It is very dangerous to allow the police to arrest people because they think they may do something according to a profile.

Urgent Action Required

We may not be able to save Larry Craig, but we can certainly send the message that the grassroots is important and that Congress cannot simply run over you. The success of the airport Boycott is critical.

Action Items:

-----1. Go to Google and type in - Minneapolis St Paul Airport Boycott - to see how well you are doing on the boycott. Also, type in Larry Craig into Google to see even more.

-----2. See lots of boycott articles at www.landrights.org

-----3. Write the Minneapolis-St Paul Airport to urge them to apologize to Senator Larry Craig for the arrest.

-----4. Call both your Senators to support Larry Craig at (202) 224-3121. Tell them to urge Larry Craig to finish his term. We have a small chance to save Larry Craig. But the other big issue is will Congress respect the grassroots. Your call will help achieve that objective.

-----5. Call Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) of the Republican Leadership to urge him and the rest of the Republican Senatorial Leadership to get off Senator Larry Craig's back and urge him to stay and serve his constituents. All Senators can be called at (202) 224-3121. Fax: (202) 228-2574. Send e-mail to: larry_cox@mccconnell.senate.gov

-----6. Call each of the Members of the Republican Senatorial Leadership. He has been a faithful ally and fought in the trenches with them for 27 years and now they want to just throw him over the side. They are rushing to judgment. It is shameful behavior by the Republican Senatorial Leadership. They can be reached on the normal Senate phone number of (202) 224-3121 or send them an e-mail.

Trent Lott (R-MS) – Fax: (601) 965-4644 - e-mail care of jack_norris@lott.senate.gov

John Kyl (R-AZ) – Fax: (202) 224-6791- e-mail care of lucy_murfitt@kyl.senate.gov

John Cornyn (R-TX) Fax: (903)-593-0920 - e-mail care of gail_green@cornyn.senate.gov -

Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) Fax: (202) 224-0775 – e-mail care of marc_short@hutchinson.senate.gov

John Ensign (R-NV) Fax: (202) 228-2193 – e-mail care of john_lopez@ensign.senate.gov

Each one of them needs to hear from you that you support keeping Larry Craig in the Senate.

-----7. E-mail the Minneapolis Airport to show support for the boycott. Tell them you'll travel through other airports instead. Here is the e-mail of the executive director of the Minneapolis St Paul International Airport. Jeff Hamiel. Jhamiel@mspmac.org -- Public Affairs is Pat Hogan phogan@mspmac.org Also: publicaffairs@mspmac.org (Corrected).

-----8. Send an e-mail to Northwest Airlines: [Northwest.Airlines@nwa.com] Let them know you will not fly into Minneapolis St Paul International Airport.

-----Larry Craig Police Report:

You should read the two page police report. Pretty flimsy evidence it seems to me. Others who have read it agree. <http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/years/2007/0828071craig1.html>

By going to the same URL you can also read a interrogation transcript as well as the audio version of the interrogation by the two police officers.

Nothing in the police report or interview says Larry Craig actually did anything unlawful. The policeman was reading Senator Craig's body language and the tea leaves to divine what he was thinking about doing or trying to do.

In other words, the policeman was profiling visitors to the restroom at the Minneapolis St Paul International Airport.

It was the policeman's perception that Senator Craig was trying to do something. In other words, he was following a profile. Larry Craig deserves our support and action on his behalf.

The whole arrest report is flimsy and the profiling may make it illegal.

Profiling by police is an issue all across the country. You should contact the American Civil Liberties Union in Minnesota unless you know someone in that organization locally. For some reason they have been very quiet on the whole Larry Craig affair.

-----Help yourself by taking action today.

You have maybe the best opportunity in years to help prevent bad legislation in Congress that threatens you. With the Democrats in Congress being largely owned by the greens, there are a whole bunch of bad bills that threaten private property rights, landowners, ranchers, miners, forestry and recreation advocates.

It is better if Congress likes landowners and Federal land users but it really helps if they respect you. And after all the news and controversy this past week, Congress is really paying attention.

Are you tired of being ignored by Congress? Do you sometimes feel you don't have the opportunity to get Congress to pay attention to you? Do you want to make Congress respect you? Now is the time.

The boycott of the Minneapolis St Paul Airport and Northwest Airlines is the best opportunity you and the rest of the grassroots have had in years to send Congress a powerful message that the grassroots is alive and well and will not be ignored.

The Republicans Senate leadership is trying to throw Larry Craig over the side. No Senator has done more for private property rights, recreation and access to Federal lands in the last 10 to 15 years.

Right now there is a battle going on in the Republican Party because some Senators and Congressmen are upset at the Senate Republican Leadership over their quick condemnation of Larry Craig without having the facts. See several articles printed below in this e-mail. Also go to www.landrights.org for more.

At American Land Rights, we stand up for our friends.

Craig should at least be encouraged to finish out his term. His constituents deserve that.

-----Whether or not Larry Craig actually resigns, the boycott of the Minneapolis St Paul Airport will continue until the Minneapolis St Paul Airport apologizes for its inappropriate arrest of Larry Craig.

-----That means the boycott will likely go on for at least a year and maybe two years or even more. So please don't plan on any flights into the Minneapolis St Paul Airport or using Northwest Airlines.

-----You have additional leverage. The Republican National Convention is in Minneapolis St Paul next year. So they are rushing to try to get this controversy stopped. Your calls, letters, e-mails and continued pressure means they have to pay attention to you.

The Minneapolis St Paul Airport is using profiling to arrest people for what they think they may do, not what they actually did. They are so far outside legal bounds that eventually the courts will rein them in.

But that may not be in time to save Senator Larry Craig. We must make them pay for destroying the career of the best private property advocate in the Senate.

People wonder why Larry Craig pleaded guilty to the Disorderly Conduct charge. It was not a sex charge. He mistakenly did it to try to avoid a controversy. Obviously, that was a bad idea.

Do you think you would be proud to be arrested in an airport bathroom, innocent or not? There is no way you can defend yourself, especially if you are a public official. It is very hard to explain that you were arrested by police using a profile so they arrested you for something they thought you were going to do. It is at the very least embarrassing. If you read the arrest report you will see how flimsy these charges are. Senator Larry Craig did nothing wrong.

Going after people using profiling is dangerous and illegal. The civil rights of Senator Craig and many others have been violated. No doubt some truly guilty people too.

Let there be no mistake. We support the police effort to stop the use of the airport as a sexual hangout. But they must do it legally and fairly and not violate the civil rights of airport visitors.

Please don't let the Minneapolis St Paul Airport get away with these "Gestapo tactics." Yes, that is what Ben Stein called them. Look below for his article.

I know Senator Craig. He has done more to protect private property rights, recreation and the use of Federal lands than any other Senator. He is a good man who has given courageous service to you and all citizens of America for 26 years. He deserves better.

We don't throw our allies over the side unlike some in the Senate Republican Leadership. Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, even threatened to run another Republican against Senator Craig if he did not resign. Never mind the fact that he is innocent.

Senator Craig would never have suggested he might resign if not for the intense pressure from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the Republican Senatorial Leadership.

He is being bullied by an out of control police department. And I might add, an out of control Republican Senate leadership.

You have the power in your hands to send the Republican Leadership a message that Republicans don't eat their young. They don't hurt their friends. And when they do, it will not be tolerated by the grassroots.

-----If the Senate Republican Leadership thought they could sweep this miscarriage of justice under the rug, they are very wrong. We will not allow the controversy to go away. This boycott will run all the way through the Republican Convention in Minneapolis next year.

The airport public affairs manager bragged to me that they are getting lots of people and they are all pleading guilty to the lesser charge.

We'll of course they plead guilty to a lesser charge. They are humiliated and afraid. Do you remember the Duke University La Cross players scandal? The charges all eventually proved to be untrue. What you see first is not necessary what happened or what you get. Especially when you have overzealous police and prosecutors.

Anyone going to the Minneapolis St Paul Airport needs to fear that this out of control police state mob will arrest you for something. They'll find something.

I'm proud to defend Larry Craig. I have been protecting private land owners and users of Federal lands for 35 years and most people I know think this is one of the best things American Land Rights has ever done as an organization.

One prominent woman noted: "I hope if I ever get in trouble, I have you behind me." Don't rush to judgment. In the end I think Larry Craig could well be vindicated and won't Senator Mitch McConnell and others trying to oust him be embarrassed then. But they don't want to give him a chance to vindicate himself.

It is the process that counts. It is awfully difficult to fight back after you have been intimidated into pleading guilty to disorderly conduct. So Larry Craig has an uphill climb.

If Larry Craig finally leaves the Senate it will be in no small measure because of a rush to judgment by the Senate Republican Leadership led by Senator Mitch McConnell.

This is an opportunity for the grassroots that often is ignored by Congress to send a message to Congress and Senator McConnell that you will not be tread upon. That will help you in the coming months as Congress considers several bills that could take your house, ranch, mine, land and access.

This is about getting recognition from Congress that you and I count. So believe what you want to believe. In the end, whether or not we save Larry Craig, American Land Rights will be known as an organization that stands up for our friends and the civil rights of individuals and the grassroots will have gained an enormous amount of respect from Congress. That will help you stop all the bad legislation Congress is planning in the next few months.

I don't care if Congress likes us. I care if they respect you. Larry Craig was just trying to avoid a controversy by pleading guilty to disorderly conduct. He was embarrassed. He hoped no one would notice. He guessed wrong. All of us are smart at some things and not so smart at others. I'm good at defending other people from the government. There are lots of things that you could look at and say I'm not so smart about.

But I understand how to protect landowners and the users of Federal land and I don't stab our allies in the back or throw them to the wolves. No matter what happens here, I will be very proud of what American Land Rights has done this month. You should be too.

Chuck Cushman
ccushman@pacifier.com

-----Ben Stein: Gestapo Tactics Got Larry Craig -- Tuesday, Sept. 4

Former Sen. Larry Craig didn't do anything illegal and was railroaded with "Gestapo tactics," says actor and commentator Ben Stein.

Appearing recently on Your World With Neil Cavuto program, Stein remarked: "I don't like the idea that people are sitting in the next stall from you at a public bathroom listening to whether or not you tap your foot. This is, as I said, Gestapo tactics. Gestapo, Gestapo, Gestapo. It's not America."

Stein says Craig, who was arrested June 11 by Minneapolis police and pled guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct, is a victim of "pure police entrapment and thuggery."

"The police have real work to do at the airport," Stein says. "It's an airport, hello. There are security problems at airports. Al-qaida: Are you listening? Our security people are entrapping perfectly honest U.S. senators in lavatory stalls instead of looking for you terrorists."

Stein charges that police intimidated Craig into pleading guilty to disorderly conduct after he was arrested for tapping his foot in a bathroom stall at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport.

Police say foot tapping is a common overture used to signal interest in a sexual encounter. Minneapolis police had reportedly made several arrests in recent months for lewd conduct in restrooms at the airport.

"A policeman drags him off, or verbally drags him off, starts browbeating him, essentially threatens he's going to ruin his career if the guy doesn't plead guilty right away," Stein tells Cavuto. "This is Gestapo tactics in Minneapolis-St. Paul. It's not nice."

Stein adds that it was wrong for GOP stalwarts to join the drumbeat for Craig's resignation: "This is some way to treat the people who have been loyal members of your part for many years. What did he do wrong? Suppose he was soliciting for gay sex. Gay sex is not illegal in the United States, the Supreme Court has said that. If it were illegal, it would be a different story. It's not illegal. He didn't do anything illegal, they're just bludgeoning him into a confession."

The Craig scandal points out a fundamental question about the balance of political power, according to Stein.

"On trumped up charges, they bring down the legislator and change the balance of power within the United States generally," he says. "This is a really serious case of police overreaching and the victim here is Larry Craig and the Constitution of the United States."

Craig has represented Idaho in Congress for over a quarter of a century and was up for re-election next year.

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-----Sen. Specter Continues Defense Of Embattled Sen. Larry Craig

By MARTHA RAFFAELE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG, Pa. -- Sen. Arlen Specter continued to defend Idaho Sen. Larry Craig on Friday, saying his Republican colleague's guilty plea in a restroom sex sting did not involve "moral turpitude."

Specter first suggested Sunday that Craig should seek to vindicate himself. Craig pleaded guilty in August to disorderly conduct following the sting operation in a men's bathroom at the Minneapolis airport, but said this week he hoped to withdraw the plea.

"Disorderly conduct does not involve moral turpitude, does not really bear on fitness to serve in the United States Senate," Specter said

during a news conference on an unrelated topic in Harrisburg.

Specter, a former Philadelphia prosecutor, said an audio taped police interrogation of Craig that was released last week was "very vague," and he did not believe Craig was seeking out sexual activity.

"I accept what Sen. Craig has said, that he was not undertaking any lewd or lascivious act, and I think it's very important to give him a chance to state his case," Specter said.

Specter added that he believes Craig has considerable support "in the Republican cloakroom," but declined to elaborate.

On Thursday, Craig's chief spokesman said his boss had dropped virtually all notions of trying to finish his third term, which ends in early 2009. The spokesman, Dan Whiting, said the senator was focused on trying to clear his name and to help Idaho prepare for a replacement.

Whiting said Craig might try to complete his term if his conviction is promptly overturned and Senate GOP leaders agree to restore the committee leadership positions they took from him this week – scenarios he said were unlikely.

-----FOXNEWS.COM HOME -- SPECIAL REPORT W/ BRIT HUME

Boycott Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport

Friday, September 07, 2007

By Brit Hume

* /Now some fresh pickings from the Political Grapevine:/*

Standing By Their Man

Some supporters of Sen. Larry Craig are plenty mad. Not at him, but at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. The American Land Rights Association is calling for a boycott of the airport where a police officer arrested Craig and accused him of soliciting sex in a restroom.

The land rights group says that police are responsible for weakening private property rights in the west by going after Craig who is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and has supported their cause in Congress.

The group is calling for the airport to apologize for what it calls "ambushing" the senator.

-----Lashing out at McConnell

By Betsy Rothstein and Elana Schor

September 07, 2007 - The Hill

<http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/lashing-out-at-mcconnell-2007-09-07.html>

Rep. Mike Simpson (R) condemned Senate GOP leaders on Thursday for their treatment of fellow Idahoan Sen. Larry Craig (R), accusing them of hypocrisy.

“I hope I never stub my toe and they throw me under the bus,” Simpson said of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) and other Republican leaders. “It kind of makes you wonder what party you want to be a member of.”

Simpson underscored that he is not considering switching parties. But he also emphasized that he would not want to serve in the Senate, even if chosen by Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter (R) to replace Craig.

The five-term House member appeared ready to take himself out of the running for a Senate appointment, even though his name remains on Otter’s short list and Craig veered back on Thursday toward resigning, as planned, on Sept. 30.

Simpson said he would pursue a Senate appointment were it in the best interests of his state, but analysts have agreed that his House seniority and status as an appropriator make Simpson more politically valuable to his state if he stays put.

The frustrated response from Simpson, a longtime ally of House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio), also rekindles the embers of House-Senate tension that at times plagued Republicans during their time in the majority.

“If that’s how they treat their own,” Simpson said, referring to Senate GOP leaders’ quick push for Craig to resign, “that tells me they’re more interested in party than individuals, and the party is made up of individuals. How you treat them says a lot about your party.”

Simpson pointed a finger at Craig’s leaders for staying mum on the legal and personal jeopardy facing other GOP senators, including Alaskan Ted Stevens, now under federal investigations, and Louisianan David Vitter, who has admitted contacting an escort service.

“They have people over there [in the Senate Republican Conference] in far worse trouble that they haven’t said a thing about,” Simpson said.

Simpson was not present for Craig’s emotional resignation announcement speech on Saturday, but said he spoke with Craig by phone that day. Simpson emphasized the bond between his and Craig’s families.

McConnell declined to comment on Simpson’s remarks, but Senate Republican sources shrugged off his frustration with their conference’s handling of Craig.

“Who cares what Simpson thinks? He is irrelevant,” one Senate GOP aide said. “We didn’t throw [Craig] under the bus. He lay down in front of it and it ran over him. There is a great deal of compassion for him as a human being and a colleague. But this is bigger than him and that single Senate seat.”

“Condemning decisions that were met with near unanimous praise inside the conference and out is an obvious political miscalculation,” said another Senate Republican aide. “If the representative truly believes that Senate leadership is the one that deserves criticism in this incident, then his senatorial ambitions are far outweighing reality.”

Simpson fired back hours after Craig’s office acknowledged that the

embattled conservative is highly likely to resign this month, rather than stay in the Senate to resolve his Minnesota legal case and a looming Ethics Committee probe.

Initial media reports depicted that acknowledgment as a reversal of Craig's statement late Tuesday that he may not step down, but Craig spokesman Dan Whiting said the situation has not changed.

"My comments ... are no different than what I have been telling people since Tuesday — he expects to resign, but has left a small door open," Whiting said in an e-mail.

That small door remains the slim chance that Craig can clear his name by Sept. 30 in Minneapolis, where his lawyers intend to seek a reversal of his August plea to disorderly conduct stemming from alleged solicitation of sexual conduct. Craig's GOP colleagues largely hailed the apparent clarification of his plans.

"The only thing that could've ever saved Senator Craig was candor and accountability, and his colleagues are obviously not sensing either," one GOP aide said.

Reflecting the scandal's unpredictable nature, however, one member of Craig's legal team said he believes Craig should stay in office "for as long as it takes in Minnesota."

"My advice to him would be to fight it," said Stan Brand of the Brand Law Group, the former House Democratic counsel now representing Craig for Ethics Committee issues.

Brand added that he did not see conflicting reports of Craig's political future as a sign that the congressional veteran is wavering.

"He's under siege and responding at different positions: political, legal, public," Brand said. Like Simpson, Brand expressed disbelief at Republican leaders' swift isolation of Craig, calling the case "unparalleled" in his career, which has spanned the Abscam, Koreagate and congressional page scandals.

"It's hard for me to believe [Craig's treatment from Republicans] is because they're worried about the public corruption issue," Brand said.

Sources said Craig is unlikely to return soon to the Capitol, where behind-the-scenes jockeying already has begun to take his places as senior Republican on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and on the Appropriations Committee. Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) appears likely to ascend to the veterans' panel post.

Meanwhile, another ally of Craig's joined Simpson in defending the beleaguered senator's honor. The American Land Rights Association (ALRA), a grassroots lobbying group that has worked with Craig to push for private land ownership rights, urged a boycott of the Minneapolis airport where Craig was arrested.

ALRA founder Chuck Cushman said in a message to group members that the Minneapolis airport police "have effectively declared war on the West" in their treatment of Craig.

-----Larry Craig's Best Friend:

The US Constitution

<http://blog.sunvalleyonline.com/index.php/bryanfischer/2141/>

As word comes of Sen. Larry Craig's reconsideration of his announced resignation from the U.S. Senate, it turns out that his best ally in getting rid of his guilty plea for his conduct in a Minneapolis airport restroom may be the United States Constitution.

If the senator had been a better student of the U.S. Constitution, his arrest may never happened at all, and if the U.S. Constitution is followed, as of course it should be, the senator's arrest and guilty plea will have to be vacated.

This is because the Constitution, in a straightforward and unambiguous manner, states in Article 1, Section 6 that "Senators and Representatives shall. be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same."

Remember, please don't make any reservations on an airline going through Minneapolis St Paul International Airport. Don't use Northwest Airlines because they are the biggest customer of the airport. Both pay the policemen who arrested Larry Craig. This is your chance to really make a difference.

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Please forward this message as widely as possible.