

DANIEL E. LUNGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

GREGG HARPER, MISSISSIPPI
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA
AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS
TODD ROKITA, INDIANA
RICH NUGENT, FLORIDA

PHILIP KIKO, STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6157
(202) 225-8281
<http://cha.house.gov>

ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

JAMIE FLEET, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 09, 2012

Mr. Ed Gillespie
Senior Advisor
Romney For President, Inc.
585 Commercial Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

Observers of the American electoral system have been greatly troubled by reports that the firm Strategic Allied Consulting, a contractor of the Republican National Committee, the Romney campaign, and state Republican parties, engaged in wide-spread voter registration fraud. I write to ask you, in light of your own connections to some of these operations, to reassure the American public by helping to explain the story behind these contracts.

American Crossroads, the Super PAC which you and Karl Rove co-founded, paid at least \$750,000 to companies run by Nathan Sproul, the founder of Strategic Allied Consulting, while you worked there, and the Romney campaign has paid Sproul companies at least \$71,000 in the past year.¹ Mr. Sproul has a reputation tarnished by allegations of voter registration crimes stretching from North Carolina and Florida to Nevada and Oregon and at least back to 2004.² By hiring his companies, the second largest Super PAC in the country and the campaign of the Republican presidential forerunner have affiliated themselves with him and supported his efforts. You can understand why many Americans are troubled by the possible implications.

I have previously written, with my colleagues to Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, and to Karl Rove, your co-founder of American Crossroads, in the attached letters, but the American public deserves to hear your explanation to the following questions:

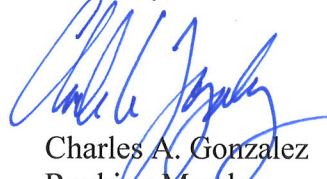
¹ "Bush administration strategist Karl Rove's American Crossroads political action committee shelled out \$350,000 last month to...Grassroots Outreach LLC, a subsidiary of Lincoln Strategy Group [formerly] known as Sproul and Associates". John Tomasic, "Colorado Election Day smackdown: Tea Party enthusiasm versus progressive infrastructure", *The Colorado Independent*, November 02, 2010 (<http://coloradoindependent.com/66031/colorado-election-day-smackdown-tea-party-enthusiasm-versus-progressive-infrastructure>); American Crossroads Schedule E, Independent Expenditures, Filing FEC-521860, December 02, 2010 (<http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/dcdev/forms/C00487363/521860/se>).

² Stephanie Saul, "G.O.P. Operative Long Trained by Allegations of Voter Fraud", *The New York Times*, October 04, 2012 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/05/us/politics/nathan-sproul-a-republican-operative-long-trailed-by-voter-fraud-claims.html?pagewanted=all>) & Farhad Manjoo, "Sproul play", *Salon.com*, October 21, 2004 (<http://www.salon.com/2004/10/21/sproul/singleton/>).

- 1) For what purposes did American Crossroads hire Mr. Sproul and what services did he provide?
- 2) Why would you associate yourself and your organization with a man like Mr. Sproul who has been dogged by so many allegations of voter registration fraud?
- 3) In light of the newest revelations about Mr. Sproul's activities, has Romney for President, Inc., severed its relationship with him? If not, what services are he or any of his companies now providing the campaign?
- 4) Mr. Sproul told the Los Angeles Times that he created Strategic Allied Consulting at and kept his name off of its records to prevent anyone connecting the firm to him and his shady reputation at the request of the RNC. Have you, American Crossroads, or Romney for President done business with Mr. Sproul under any other names? If so, what were they, what services did he provide, and what was he paid?

With Election Day less than one month away, your prompt response to these questions is imperative. I hope to hear from you by October 23 so that we can reassure every eligible voter that neither you nor the Romney campaign countenances voter registration fraud or any other type of voter suppression.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Gonzalez
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Elections

CAG:cr

/Enclosure