

Re: Open the Books - VA01

Adam Andrzejewski

Wed 9/26/2018 3:35 PM

To: King, Carolyn <Carolyn.King@mail.house.gov>;

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>;

Hi Carolyn,

We appreciate the background here and additional context. Many of the actions that you suggest undertaken by the congressman, we support also.

Congress has the power of the purse. Therefore, agencies have no spending power besides the powers they are granted or ceded by Congress. We are saying Congress has not done an adequate job of limiting the role and authority of agencies. This is, in part, why we see so many examples of waste and abuse. Congress is not an innocent or helpless bystander. Members of congress can not make the argument that they are powerless.

Therefore, we stand by our very responsible public position to map federal grants by congressional district and showcase the worst of those grants in the nation's leading papers.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder | 312.320.1867



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From: King, Carolyn <Carolyn.King@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 4:39 PM

To: Adam Andrzejewski

Subject: Open the Books - VA01

Adam,

I know my staff has reached out to you on this topic in the past and I feel it is now necessary that I connect with you. I find it troubling that Open the Books would insinuate Congressman Wittman advocated for a wasteful federal grant merely because the grant's recipient is located within his district. This report is mistakenly disingenuous or, and I would hope not, deliberately deceitful. While Congressman Wittman shares Open the Books belief that Washington has a serious spending problem, tying his name to a grant he neither advocated for,

nor or had any role in providing, does not help further efforts in Washington to cut out of control federal spending.

Included below is an email we sent you in May when you included the Congressman's name in an op-ed penned for Fox News. It would seem that you ignored the background on this issue, essentially turning a blind eye to the process in which grants are awarded in the United States. By not doing this research, you have continued to spread a false narrative. I have included that background information below.

I respectfully request that you remove Congressman Wittman's name from your ad, website, printed materials, etc as relating to the Research, Evaluation and Social Solutions, Inc. (REESSI) example.

Background:

A company from Congressman Wittman's district - Research, Evaluation and Social Solutions, Inc. (REESSI) - submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health in 2015, during the Obama Administration.

The Department of Health and Human Services approved the grant for \$651,498.

Congressman Wittman was not involved in the grant request or the awarding of the grant, nor did he advocate for the grant, and he has no connection to the business. Furthermore, federal grant requests are processed directly through the Executive Branch agency; Congress does not approve or allocate specific grant requests, and there is not a line item veto opportunity for Congress to strike out certain grants awarded by Executive Agencies.

Funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, which included all awarded grants, was included in the 2016 Omnibus bill, H.R.2029 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. Rep. Wittman voted against this bill.

Congressman Wittman remains committed to the principle of fiscal responsibility. Since coming to Congress, Congressman Wittman has insisted that we pass appropriations bills on time through regular order instead of the budgeting by crisis that leads us to massive, last-minute spending deals. He has introduced two pieces of legislation called the No Budget, No Pay Act and the Stay on Schedule Resolution that would hold members to the highest standard so that if they don't do their jobs, they won't get a paycheck or vacation. These pieces of legislation would ensure Congress evaluates spending each year and makes the proper choices to reach fiscal responsibility.

Carolyn Amirpashaie King

Chief of Staff

Office of Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-01)

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[\(202\) 225-4261](tel:(202)225-4261)

From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Friday, May 4, 2018 11:28 AM

To: Gayle, Kathleen <Kathleen.Gayle@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: Re: Fox News Opinion Piece - Wittman Mention

Hi Kathleen,

Thank you for your inquiry. We did not write that the congressman "advocated on the businesses behalf to secure a grant." Nor did we say the the congressman sponsored the grant. The language for the piece was specifically chosen and is a true statement:

(We've included the names of the congressional representatives for the zip codes where the grant was received.)

We are a watchdog organization and believe that the congressman should be held accountable for federal money flowing into his district. This is a federal grants oversight piece and members of the House are elected to oversee federal activity in their district. You mentioned that the congressman voted against the 2016 Omnibus spending bill, and therefore can make this argument with your constituents.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder | 312.320.1867



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From: Gayle, Kathleen <Kathleen.Gayle@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 4, 2018 10:00 AM

To: Adam Andrzejewski

Subject: Fox News Opinion Piece - Wittman Mention

Mr. Andrzejewski –

My name is Kathleen Gayle and I am the Press Secretary for Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-01). I'm writing to you regarding [your piece published on foxnews.com](#) yesterday. The way it reads makes it seem like Congressman Wittman advocated on this business's behalf to secure a grant. That was not the case and we have no connection to this business. Congressman Wittman has been a staunch advocate for fiscal responsibility and actually voted against the 2016 omnibus spending package that you refer to that these grants were derived from. As many of our constituents read Fox News, we have received many phone calls questioning the Congressman's commitment to fiscal responsibility. We would request that you either remove his name or outline more clearly that the members have no connection to these businesses. Please let me know if you will correct the story.

Best,

Kathleen

Kathleen Gayle

Legislative Assistant & Press Secretary
Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1)

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