

June 6, 2018

Rep. Paul Ryan
Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner
Rep. Sean Duffy
Rep. Glen Grothman
Rep. Mike Gallagher

Dear Sirs,

Nearly seventeen months into the presidency of Donald Trump, the people of Wisconsin can no longer overlook your deafening silence on so many events and issues that put our state and nation in a constant state of tumult, and leave us with no moral authority where we once led on a global stage.

A long list of ethics violations and evidence of grift and graft in this administration flowed into a crescendo yesterday with the revelation that EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt used his staff and authority of his public office for private gain (see Section 645.702). And neither the Speaker of the House nor any member of Wisconsin's Republican delegation have called for investigation, the minimal appropriate response to this uncontested criminal behavior.

And in the same news cycle, we learn that the administration is forcibly taking children from migrant parents at the southern border, housing some of the children in cages, a practice condemned by the United Nations as a violation of human rights and of international law.

I would add that it is a violation of our family values and of the decency we expect of each other in our state and nation. And not a word of protest or even inquiry from any one of you. You have effectively abandoned your own moral authority along with the interests of your constituents.

So if criminal behavior of high ranking public officials and human decency don't merit your attention, can we expect a word from any of you on steel tariffs and the budding trade war that threatens the economy?

Truly yours,

Barbara Lawton
Wisconsin Lt. Governor 2003-11
Barbaraclawton@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Lawton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

