

Rhett Bowlin
2 Antilles
St. Joseph, MO 64506
rhettbowlin@gmail.com
907-230-8728

16 July 2020

The Honorable TJ Donovan
Attorney General of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I already provided you with a longer letter regarding the closure of Marlboro College and my strong views related to Marlboro's failed leadership.

I write now because I have been made aware that some members of the Board of Trustees are in fact troubled by the choice of Democracy Builders as the purchaser of the campus. Others involved in staging the transaction are having second thoughts, too. However, no one will speak out about this publicly for fear of possible legal action on the part of the purchaser. All of this, indeed, is deeply troubling.

I would like to repeat my request to you that the liquidation of the Corporation of Marlboro College be paused until an independent commission is allowed to examine the steps and missteps, the real financial figures related to Marlboro's assets and liabilities, and the unredacted documents related to the transfer of assets to Emerson College and the sale of the Marlboro College campus to Democracy Builders.

Nothing here makes sense, and not just because documents we have been able to review have been redacted. I have seen redacted letters to Marlboro's major donors in which the College President requests releases on restrictions. At least two passages, one from a donor and one from the President himself, lead me to believe that the administration has misled donors in working to remove restrictions from donations to Marlboro. There is no proposal related to 'navigating the very challenging pathway to the future for Marlboro College,' as one donor wrote. And Marlboro's 'proposed alliance with Emerson College,' as the President wrote, is a misrepresentation of the actual liquidation of Marlboro.

I find it baffling that Marlboro leadership would have entered into a purchase agreement with any buyer without any contingencies and before concluding a final agreement with Emerson regarding the College's significant assets. That alone demonstrates the negligence that Marlboro leadership has demonstrated while supposedly stewarding the College and its assets. The fatal arrogance on top of the sheer incompetence of both the President and the Board of Trustees must

not be excused, and the Corporation should be held to account for the disastrous proposals on the table right now.

Please act in the interest of transparency and accountability that supporters of Marlboro College deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rhett Bowlin', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Rhett Bowlin, '93

Director, Higher Education Support Program (Budapest)

Director, Africa Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (Johannesburg)

Open Society Foundations, 1994-2012