



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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November 14, 2007

Members
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20016

via fax

**RE: NAACP OPPOSITION TO HANS VON SPAKOVSKY'S
NOMINATION TO THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), our Nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots civil rights organization I urge you to reject the nomination of Hans von Spakovsky to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The nominee's lengthy record of voter suppression and obfuscation of the mission of United States Department of Justice (DOJ) for partisan gain clearly disqualifies the nominee from serving in a position responsible for implementing and enforcing our nation's election laws.

While serving in the Voting Section of DOJ's Civil Rights Division, Mr. von Spakovsky helped oversee efforts that disenfranchised voters unlikely to cast their ballots for candidates from his party. Mr. von Spakovsky's record has been well documented by the media as well as former coworkers at DOJ. While working in the Voting Section of DOJ's Civil Rights Division, Mr. von Spakovsky turned down multiple staff requests to investigate various practices believed to disenfranchise voters while actually encouraging practices that were later ruled by federal judges to violate the Voting Rights Act.

A controversial voter ID law in Georgia that was rubber-stamped by Mr. von Spakovsky against career staff recommendations was later thrown out by a federal judge who found it to be the functional equivalent of a poll tax. Mr. von Spakovsky also ignored career staff when he approved a mid-decade Texas redistricting plan orchestrated by then-Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) that the U.S. Supreme Court later found violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Overwhelmingly, the citizens kept from the polls by the decisions and policies furthered by Mr. von Spakovsky have been low income and racial or ethnic minority Americans. Mr. von Spakovsky repeatedly chose to ignore and undermine the constitutional right of all citizens to vote and participate in the political process, and he did so in a manner that advanced the agenda of his

own party. Such behavior is completely unacceptable, particularly for a nominee seeking a position as fundamentally important to our democracy as overseeing our nation's election laws.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the position of the NAACP. Again, I urge you to vote against the confirmation of Hans von Spakovsky to the Federal Election Commission. Should you have any questions or comments about the NAACP's concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary O. Shelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hilary O. Shelton
Director