

Dear Mr. McMullin,

My name is Jason Hardman, I received the letter from you asking for my money to fight conservatism. I'm a conservative, so I'll be keeping my money to pay those high gas prices you sympathetically mention. First of all, I was happy with Donald Trump when I didn't think I would be. Second of all, Mike Lee is the best thing Utah has to offer by way of safeguarding our rights and freedom in Washington right now. Third, who are you?

We were energy independent and the economy was the best it had been in years – for everyone – until covid hit. The Russian collusion accusations were found to not only be false, but an attempt by an opposing campaign to poison the country against a challenger to the Democrats (much like your letter seems to be). Why didn't you put that in your letter – going after Hillary Clinton and her campaign for worse acts than Nixon's ordeal? I voted for you in 2016, but I voted for Trump in 2020. January 6th was uncalled for, but has since been blown way out of proportion. Why did you not mention bringing Brett Kavanaugh's abductors to justice; or those illegally protesting at his private residence and at that Supreme Courthouse? I'm not in support of anyone who rides the "let's get trump outta here" broken down old bandwagon. It's tired, misguided, and headed for a cliff. I hope you realize this some time soon.

I've always liked Mike Lee and have never found issue with him. Can you clarify "fake electors" for me? I hardly believe Mike was trying to do anything illegal (who defines "un-American" anyway – you?). That's a heavy charge and needs vetting. I like his voting record and agree with him on most issues. Regarding Putin, sanctions against him are sanctions against the Russian people, who happen to be as victimized by Putin as the Ukrainians (but worse victims of the rest of the world – to whom can the people of Russia turn). In that light, I agree with Mike in opposing "Russian People" sanctions.

Violence against women is bad – but so is bad legislation. Do you really think that I'm going to believe Mike Lee hates women because of the name of a bill he voted against? From Congress.gov, I read the following about the bill: "*The bill also authorizes new programs, **makes changes to federal firearms laws**, and establishes new protections to **promote housing stability and economic security for victims of domestic violence**, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking."* I can see by just this why he voted against it. Whatever good things it may contain, it's adulterated with firearms laws – why? And about housing and money for battered women – someone should help them out – and people do. I've helped people in need like this myself with my own resources. I don't need to give the government more money to mismanage so they can *try* and do the same. This should be addressed locally, not federally. I also agree with Mike that fatherlessness is a major contributor to the kind of adolescent nihilism that leads to mass shootings. It's not the lack of government that make some men evil. From what I can see, Mike Lee has every interest in protecting my rights and freedoms. I'm also surprised a former officer of the Central Intelligence Agency like yourself doesn't know we live in a Constitutional Republic, not a Democracy.

Which leads me to my last point. Who are you? Americans are tired with the gotcha games power seeking individuals use to gain our favor. It's dumb, really. I laughed at your letter, mostly, before I felt sad for you. I feel sorry for anyone who sends you money based on it. I feel bad for the country, honestly. Do any of us really know what you will do? Do you have a track record to hold up against Mike Lee's, or against anyone's? Stating problems we all agree on is a great sales tactic. You empathize with me... Great. Are you going to allow pipelines, drilling in federal lands, and promote regulations that make sense for the economy instead of some existential threat that no-body is credibly

sure about – or are you going to do the opposite? Are you going to oppose red flag laws, which are basically New York City’s stop-and-frisk law on steroids. Murder is already illegal – in all 50 states. What more can the government do to keep people from being murdered without also making us dependant, vulnerable, and less free?

You mention having a front row seat to authoritarianism’s devastating grasp. You imply that Mike Lee is the kind of extremist that destroys democracy. Yet, all you do is point to things he opposes. Opposing things is by nature defensive. Authoritarians are anything but defensive. They are the offensive people like Mike Lee oppose. Meanwhile, you imply (which is a great politician trick) that you want to restrict guns from law-abiding citizens (classic authoritarian move); radically change centuries-old voting laws (classic authoritarian move); cast opponents as diabolical, grouping them with other hated figures, forgoing any nuance or sense or real personalities or personas (classic authoritarian move – are you with me?). Are you with me? Hitler “stood up to” the jews to rise to power. Lenin and Stalin “stood up to” the bourgeoisie to rise to power. Mao Zedong had his evil landlords. Pol Pot had royalty and industrialism. You have “extremism.” That plays right into the overboard nature of the January 6th coverage. But, of course, you already know all of this.

Needless to say, I won’t be joining, or funding, any orange-man-bad movement. I like the incumbant. Finally, you should be ashamed of yourself for the way you use deception, misdirection, implication, hate, fear, and empathy to gain power without really stating your reason for doing so. I guess I shouldn’t expect anything different from an officer of the CIA.

Best Regards,

Jason Hardman