

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project

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GREG PALAST AND FIGHTING BOB FEST ORGANIZERS OWE WISCONSINITES AN APOLOGY

(Madison) – The leadership of the Wisconsin 9/12 Project was disappointed yesterday to learn that at least one speaker at the Fighting Bob Fest in Madison this past weekend appeared to advocate criminal behavior toward Republican legislators.

A direct transcription of journalist Greg Palast's comments at the event follows:

Ahh, God, this is Wisconsin. This is the place where you had some guy pour beer over the head of a Republican state senator [sic]? NO, NO, NO! That's all wrong! You can't do that. That's just wrong. I'm from New York. If you're going to pour beer on a Republican, you have to drink it first!

The crowd erupted in cheers and laughter after these remarks.

Mr. Palast references and makes light of a September 14th incident in which beer was actually poured onto three Wisconsin state *assemblymen* at an establishment near the State Capitol in Madison. While we appreciate a good joke, we don't think the incident on the 14th fits that definition. In fact, according to official statements, it represents an escalation of harassing behavior ongoing since February. As such, we similarly fail to find amusing Mr. Palast's inciting remarks concerning the incident.

Unfortunately, within the context of the current political climate, we have little choice but to view Mr. Palast's remarks as purposefully provocative and deeply irresponsible. They place at risk not just targeted legislators but also others. If uncivil behavior is encouraged, criminal activity such as property damage and actual bodily harm become much more probable. Innocent bystanders are also increasingly likely to be caught in the crossfire as agitators adopt further uncivil, even harmful means of conveying their message.

It is our hope that no one would foolishly act upon Mr. Palast's vulgar and dangerous "idea." However, potential health risks are involved should someone do so. ***Urine is an irritant to the skin and eyes. Depending on the manner of collection and storage, urine may also gather infection-causing bacteria.***

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project urges Mr. Palast to recant his remarks. We further politely request that the organizers of the Fighting Bob Fest publicly disavow Mr. Palast's comments, specifically, the notion of pouring urine on anyone. We are surprised, in fact, that those behind such a high-profile event did not immediately think to do so on their own.

We've heard many claims since February about how peaceful, tolerant, and respectful those on the left are in expressing their opposition to policies recently implemented in Wisconsin. Now would be an excellent time for them to prove it. Will Mr. Palast and the organizers of the Fighting Bob Fest extend a merited apology not just to Republican legislators but to all Wisconsin citizens for fostering an attitude of public incivility that could result in serious mishap?

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project is a Dane County-based, non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to restoring the rightful authority of the American people in determining the size, scope, and direction of government. For further information about the Wisconsin 9/12 Project, please visit our website at: <http://www.wisconsin912project.com> or contact us via email at: wisconsin912@gmail.com.