

July 12, 2018

Mr. Eric W. Kaler
Office of the President
202 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55445

Dear President Kaler,

I am writing to inform the University of Minnesota that I will no longer donate money to the University of Minnesota during my lifetime or as a bequest at my death. Instead, any donations or bequests that were intended for the University of Minnesota will be donated to Young America's Foundation.

As background, I am a 1975 graduate of the Carlson School of Management. [REDACTED]

During the 1980's and the 1990's, I was a member of the University of Minnesota Medical Foundation President's Club and was an inaugural board member [REDACTED]

After my daughter's death [REDACTED] I established the [REDACTED] Scholarship Endowment Fund. This scholarship fund was endowed – in partnership with the University of Minnesota – and has granted in excess of \$60,000 in scholarships since establishment. As an endowment, this fund will continue to award scholarships in perpetuity. This fund was to receive a major bequest under my estate plan.

For many years I have questioned the political atmosphere at the University and found it disheartening as a patriotic and conservative alumnus.

On February 27, 2018, I was invited to the Ben Shapiro lecture on the St. Paul campus as a guest of the Young America's Foundation (YAF). I was fully aware of the difficulty YAF


experienced in finding an adequate venue for the event. In my opinion, the University demonstrated a strong bias against a conservative message being presented to students on campus.

Also, the night of the lecture I was a witness to a very unprofessional confrontation of a young YAF spokesman by a representative of the University. This YAF spokesman is a Minnesota native and was there with his mother. The University representative confronted the YAF spokesman while he was speaking with his mother and accused him of being a "pathological liar" repeatedly. It was embarrassing for all in the vicinity of the confrontation. As a University Alumnus it was a further illustration of the bias I felt the University had demonstrated for a long time.

I sincerely hope the University re-evaluates itself and truly adopts a free speech policy with equal access for all political viewpoints. I believe the University serves its students when speakers like Ben Shapiro are welcomed. The faculty has ample opportunity to advance alternative points of view. The University demeans its mission when it mistreats or ignores conservative scholarship and conservative students.

In conclusion, Ben Shapiro gave a great lecture that was appropriate for all listeners. He is brilliant and thoughtful. Such speakers should be encouraged on campus – always.

Regards,


BSB '75

cc: Ron Robinson, YAF President
Nicole Hoplin, YAF Vice President