

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM WORKSHEET: JIM PILLEN IS NOT A TRUE CONSERVATIVE.

BACKGROUND. In every election, conservative voters must decide if a candidate is a true conservative or a lying, phony, sleazy politician trying to fool conservatives into voting for him or her. In the 2022 GOP gubernatorial race, we commend Charles W. Herbster as a true, solid fiscal and social conservative, with a long history of traditional values credentials, for which we can offer granite proof. His opponent, Jim Pillen, boasted no conservative credentials until after he filed for governor, becoming an “instant conservative.” This pig tycoon may fool some conservative voters with his sudden conservative hogwash, but he cannot fool everyone. Read the proof that the Jim Pillen campaign has only a conservative façade and pass along this information to other voters.

HIS REGENT RECORD. Jim Pillen first won a spot as a university regent in 2013 and won the board chairmanship in 2020. In 2017, a political firestorm erupted on the UN-L campus, after 2 leftwing university staff members publicly berated and humiliated a conservative freshman student publicizing a conservative youth group program. This student and her supporters did not gain support or apologies from the university administration. However, a few conservative state senators and conservative organizations like our NTF group strongly lobbied University regents to discipline the staffers and offer campus support to the aggrieved students and their organization. The response from Regent Pillen: silence. The Confucius Institute operated for many years on the UN-L campus, supposedly to acquaint students with Chinese culture and language. According to the FBI and 2 U.S. Senate investigations, this Institute engages in subversion and espionage on U.S. college campuses, attempting to sway collegians to support Chinese communism and recruiting spies. Repeated attempts by NTF to persuade regents, including Jim Pillen, to ban the institute from UN-L as did many other American universities, produced no results. Again, the Pillen response: silence. Only when UN-L cut its budget did the administration terminate the Institute. Worse, Pillen voted in 2018 to



support the hiring of a U. administrator to create a new Office of Diversity & Inclusion at UN-L, a precursor to implementation of critical race theory. Critical race theorists essentially believe that White people are all inherently racist. The office website says it aims to “create a more equitable, and inclusive campus culture.” The words equity, diversity, and inclusion are key words in CRT. The university created this bureaucracy after 4 years of deliberation following racial complaints on campus. Pillen exhibited a notable lack of courage and action to stop CRT in its infancy on campus and spare students its leftist propaganda. After his announcement for the gubernatorial race, Pillen magically reversed his stance and proposed a resolution opposing CRT instruction. Pillen campaign ads continue to boast that he is the first U. regent to oppose CRT and that he is a recognized leader in college education on this issue. The university system utilizes reverse discrimination against Whites in its hiring and promotion of staff. NE Taxpayers for Freedom made a pertinent Freedom of Information Act request for specific documentation from the university system, including correspondence, on this issue. The university surprisingly announced that it had no information on file for our request. Regent Pillen, solicited for assistance in our endeavor, completely ignored taxpayers. UN-L claims it regularly welcomes speakers with varying viewpoints to campus despite accusations of discriminating against a Christian student organization. In another black mark for U. regents, the Christian student group Ratio Christi sued the U. in U.S. District Court, after the U. fund allocation committee denied its request for \$1,500 in student fees to book a speaker on campus for a lecture on Christian philosophy. The federal lawsuit claims that the committee called the invitation political in nature and told the group to invite another speaker to promote another viewpoint. The group refused, and the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative legal group, on their behalf sued the university and Board of Regents, including Jim Pillen, in order to rectify the policy. Again, as regent, Pillen did nothing to assist this conservative group against prejudicial university behavior.

HIS BUSINESS. One website offers extremely negative reviews from former employees who worked at Pillen Family Farms.¹ One former employee from Humphrey, NE. complained about horrid working conditions, forcing employees to work while sick and cheating on pay. A former barn technician related unsanitary working conditions and mandatory long work hours. Stated that management did not listen to employee suggestions. He labored 14+ hour days with no overtime, bonus, or incentive pay. He saw workers stressed and beating pigs out of frustration. Another former animal care technician complained about a harsh supervisor who inquired too much into his personal affairs and degraded employees. He worked 45 hours a week plus every other weekend with no extra pay. A company herdsman fumed about poor management that never listened to veteran employees and no overtime pay. A company site manager told of poor managers and lack of communication with employees. A company feed truck driver noted poor pay and no overtime pay. A company accounting clerk complained of a hostile work environment, too heavy workloads, and employees treated like

¹ <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Pillen-Family-Farms/reviews>

animals instead of people. A company farrowing specialist related about inefficient and testy managers who expected unrealistic employee performance, plus no time off for home life.

PIG TYCOON PILLEN. Many Pillen neighbors in small town Humphrey, NE. fought his effort to expand his swine operation from 1,230 pigs to 24,000, located closer than 2 miles from town. Residents rightly worried about stench, sinking home valuations, and tainted water supply. City well and groundwater contamination worried them. Neighbors filed almost 130 complaints against Pillen Family Farms with the state Dept. of Environmental Quality. Many of the irate own houses or lots on adjacent recreational sandpit developments, Brandenburgh Lakes and Bellwood Lakes, on the south bank of the Platte River. About 90 houses sit on 110 lots at Brandenburgh Lakes, 60 homes at Bellwood Lakes. The Pillen site is on the old Platte River riverbed. Thick layers of sand and gravel lie under the thin topsoil. Leaking or spilled hog waste easily could foul the aquifer that dozens of private wells use for drinking water. Furthermore, hog waste injected into nearby cropland as fertilizer could exacerbate an already alkaline soil, spoiling its corn productivity. In an interview, Pillen adroitly downplayed the large number of complaints from irate neighbors, insisting a silent majority supported his expansion.

FOOT IN MOUTH. During one gubernatorial debate, Pillen suffered foot in mouth trouble when, in response to a question about what the state should spend federal infrastructure bill funds on to help rural farmers, ranchers, and rural communities, he responded that NE rural roads and broadband service were “not that bad.” Tell that to rural voters who slog along rutted dirt roads that become bottomless mud in wet weather and who lack Internet service or reliable service, because telecom providers refuse to use their taxpayer subsidies to stretch service into the NE heartland. Pillen should read 2021 statistics from the Federal Highway Administration that placed NE 18th worst in the percentage of structurally unsound bridges.

RICKETTS SUPPORT. Gov. Pete Ricketts has endorsed Pillen for governor. One possible reason is that Ricketts may launch a presidential bid in future, and Charles W. Herbster in the governor’s mansion could become an obstacle. Former Lt.- Governor Lavon Heidemann endorsed Pillen. Recall that Heidemann resigned his position in disgrace after media exposure of a scandal involving his alleged assault against his sister and a subsequent restraining order.

LEGAL PROBLEMS. One ex-employee accused top managers and others in the Pillen hog operation of hiring illegal aliens and avoiding tax and unemployment compensation payments by classifying employees as contract workers. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in NE by a former company personnel employee, fired for not being a team player. The employee spent 4 years repeatedly complaining to top managers about hiring illegal aliens and submitting fake documents to the federal government but found the company unresponsive. The employee then filed complaints with the NE Equal Opportunity Commission and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Believing himself unjustly fired, he demanded past wages and benefits plus punitive financial damages. In an earlier lawsuit, *Stephens v. Pillen*, a group of 18 angry plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against Pillen, alleging his hog confinements in Boone and Nance Counties constituted a private nuisance. Their petition alleged that these operations had become a nuisance since 1997, depriving plaintiffs of the normal use and enjoyment of their property, that they had notified Pillen of their complaints but that he failed to remedy the situation. Their lawsuit sought injunctive relief, costs, and general damages determined at trial. At trial, aggrieved plaintiffs testified about the impact of odors as unbearable, overwhelming, a suffocating stench, like a sewer odor that choked them. Some related that they closed up their homes daily, used air conditioning exclusively rather than fresh air, could not spend time outside in their yards or gardens with their kids and grandkids, and could not hang laundry on clotheslines. One plaintiff declared herself a prisoner in her own house. Two plaintiffs had to sleep in their basements to avoid the stench. Pillen in turn testified that, despite plaintiff testimonies, his hog confinement operations did not change their quality of life or disrupt their daily activities to such an extent that he should alter his operations. The court ruled that the plaintiffs had proved that the 4 hog confinement facilities constituted an intentional nuisance and ordered Pillen to mitigate the odors within 12 months or cease operations.



HYPOCRITE. On the campaign trail, Pillen rages about government handouts and socialist welfare. However, he conveniently fails to mention that Pillen Family Farms received a whopping \$331,678 in federal subsidies in 2020 and federal pandemic loans of \$7.8 million.² No other NE gubernatorial candidate received such subsidies.

OTHER ISSUES. Conservative voters might show surprise at Pillen responses to issues of crucial importance to them. He supports legalization of same sex marriage and the right of gay couples to adopt children. Pillen agrees that the U.S. president should have the power to deploy army troops to stop protests. Perhaps he was envisioning protests supporting

² <https://farm.ewg.org/index.php>.

Pres. Trump. He does not support banning Muslim immigrants from entering the U.S. until the feds improve their ability to screen out potential terrorists. He believes that convicted felons should enjoy the right to vote. Jim Pillen is declining all debate invitations leading up to the Republican primary. The frontrunner in this race, conservative Charles Herbster, says Pillen is depriving voters of the opportunity to witness performance under pressure.



TAKE ACTION NOW. Conservative voters should not vote for Jim Pillen for Governor, just as we probably would not purchase a used car from him. His conservative credentials stink worse than his pig farms. Using the information above, tell all your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and anyone else why they should not vote for Jim Pillen and instead vote for a real conservative, Charles W. Herbster. Write a guest newspaper editorial exposing Pillen.

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