

RELEASE: House Majority Leader Condemns Racist Remarks from Republican Representative



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Concord, New Hampshire
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PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER CONDEMNS RACIST REMARKS FROM REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Yesterday Representative Werner Horn (R-Franklin) made several racist comments on Facebook, and then in a follow up telephone interview as reported by the Union Leader. **House Majority Leader Doug Ley (D-Jaffrey)**, who is also a Professor of History at Franklin Pierce University, released the following statement:

“Representative Werner Horn’s comments yesterday were disgusting and have no place in our legislature, our state, or our country. To claim that slavery was not about race, and that people were brought to this country as slaves because they were “available” is wrong and blatantly racist. If he thinks slavery was about labor and not race, then why discriminate against free blacks prior to Civil War and why impose Jim Crow and racial violence after the Civil War?”

“Racism against Africans predated slavery. Once the slave trade made it economically viable, then slavery took root. To simply claim that Africans were available or suited to the work is to deny historical reality. It is to repeat the same justifications and lies used by the most vigorous 19th century apologists for slavery. It is so sad to see how little has changed in the minds of some of my colleagues. Ignorance of history is no excuse. Representative Horn's comments are a historical travesty and an insult to the New Hampshire citizens who fought and died during the Civil War.”

“I hope that House Minority Leader Dick Hinch takes this more seriously than Governor Sununu, who refused to condemn recent racist tweets by President Trump. Representative Hinch needs to denounce Representative Horn’s racist remarks and take steps to ensure members of his caucus understand America’s painful history of slavery.”

Background:

- Representative Horn’s remarks appear in the section titled “Trump defense in NH turns to slavery” in this July 17 article from the Union Leader: https://www.unionleader.com/news/politics/granite_status/kevin-landrigan-s-granite-status-as-one-senate-run-gets/article_4e9317e9-1572-5750-9f0c-93f99d4f547a.html
- Sununu Refuses to Comment on Trump Tweets: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-hampshire/articles/2019-07-17/sununu-refuses-to-comment-on-trump-tweets>

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Best,

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He/Him/His

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