

Does Kelly Kite Actually Believe You'll Fall for His B.S.? Or a Better Question: Will You?

Dear Douglas County Republican,

Many of you know me. Some of you are subscribers to my *Muth's Truths* e-newsletter. If so, you know I'm not a Republican; I'm a conservative.

And if your general position is "My Republican, right or wrong," go ahead and stop reading this letter right now. It's not meant for you. It's meant for principled Republicans who understand that to make **REAL** changes in our government it's not enough to just elect *more* Republicans, but *better* ones as well.

That said, I'm not oblivious to political reality. I understand that in a Democrat-majority district the best the GOP can often hope for is a moderate Republican who at least will vote for Republican leadership in the Legislature.

But, hello...Douglas County is **NOT** North Las Vegas. It's rock-solid, "gun-toting, bible-thumping" GOP Country! So one does **NOT** have to be a wishy-washy moderate to win in Douglas County. The late Sen. Lawrence Jacobsen, former Assemblyman Lynn Hettrick and incumbent Sen. James Settlemeyer are all proof-positive of that fact.

With that said, the reason I'm writing you today is because you may have recently received a fundraising email from your incumbent Republican **Assemblyman Kelly Kite** that screams out for correction and clarification.

But before I go on, let me state, unequivocally, that I'm **NOT** saying Kelly is a bad guy. Indeed, he's one of the nicer guys you'll meet in the Legislature. Very personable. Very laid back. Gets along with everybody. Nice guy.

But this isn't about playing nice in the sandbox with the other kids. This is about how Kelly *voted* in the last Legislative session. It's not that he's a bad guy; it's that he voted badly on some very important bills...at least as far as conservatives are concerned.

Legislative Democrats, on the other hand, were thrilled with him!

Indeed, Kelly's 2011 rating from the conservative *Nevada Policy Research Institute* was an abysmal 52.88%. Contrast that to Sen. Settlemeyer's NPRI score of 87.68%.

So this isn't personal; it's business. My beef with Kelly Kite is his voting record...that's all. And with that out of the way – and in case you didn't receive his fundraising pitch – here's an excerpt of what he wrote that caused me to send you this letter:

"In 2011, we were able to cut taxes on 70% of businesses across the state. Just as important, we were able to prevent a last-hour 1.2 Billion dollar tax increase on all Nevadans proposed by the Democrats in the majority. Furthermore, we prevented a special session, began important educational reforms...and we strengthened Nevada's gun rights. I am excited to build on the successes of last session and continue Nevada's economic recovery, as well as implementing necessary reforms such as reining in out-of-control construction defect laws.

"As you may already know, I am under attack for my vote on the final budget for 2011. Let me be clear that I stand behind all of my votes and I remain accountable and accessible to all Nevadans. With that said, it is my hope and belief that the sunset taxes will not need to be extended in 2013."

OK, let's take these one at a time:

1.) His claim to have "cut taxes on 70% of businesses across the state" simply isn't true.

What Kelly is referring to here is an exemption carved out for most of Nevada's small businesses from the horribly anti-business "modified business tax" which penalizes a business for every employee it hires.

Now, in 2009 the Legislature hiked taxes to the tune of some \$800 million dollars, including an almost **TRIPLING** of the payroll tax on the largest employers in the state. In return, however, those "temporary" tax hikes included an exemption from the payroll tax for small businesses.

So here's what happened. Shortly after Gov. Sandoval was sworn into office in January 2011, he discovered that if the 2009 tax hikes were allowed to "sunset" in June, that exemption for small businesses from the payroll tax would also go away.

Once the governor realized this he **IMMEDIATELY** announced it would be fixed in his budget so that even if the "temporary" taxes did sunset, those small businesses would still be exempted from the tax.

So the reality here is that the taxes for these small businesses weren't "cut" at all. At best, one might claim that the taxes on those businesses didn't go back up. But in either event, Kelly really had nothing to do with it. Gov. Sandoval did.

2.) As for Kelly's claim that he helped stop "a last-hour 1.2 Billion dollar tax increase on all Nevadans proposed by the Democrats in the majority," that's, at best, a stretch.

Anyone who was at or following the Legislature in those final days knows, as John McLaughlin would say, with metaphysical certitude that that tax hike proposal was D.O.A. The Democrats only threw it out there at the last minute as a bone for their left-wing nutjob base. Everyone and their uncle knew this wasn't a serious proposal and didn't have a snowball's chance in Pahrump in July of passing.

So this claim by Kelly is kinda like the rooster taking credit for the sun rising.

3.) As for "prevent(ing) a special session," I wouldn't be crowing about that either. The way Kelly and the GOP prevented a special session was to agree to raise taxes by \$620 million! Well cock-a-doodle-doo.

In addition, by **NOT** forcing a special session, Kelly and his GOP colleagues also probably condemned Republicans to minority status in the Assembly for the next ten years. Because Republicans didn't force Democrats to compromise on redistricting in a special session in exchange for their vote for the \$620 million tax hike.

4.) "Began important educational reforms"? Puh-lease.

At best they succeeded in rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. But the bottom line on the deal is this: The Democrats got a \$620 million steak; Assembly Republicans got table scraps. Indeed, despite Gov. Sandoval campaigning on school vouchers, his proposal never even got a hearing in exchange for the \$620 million tax hike, let alone an up-or-down vote. Some deal.

5.) "Strengthened Nevada's gun rights"? Really? Tell that to Amanda Collins.

In case you don't remember, Amanda Collins was attacked and brutally raped in a UNR parking garage by the man who killed Brianna Denison. As the *Nevada News Bureau* reported last year, "*Collins had a permit to carry a concealed firearm, but had left it at home knowing that it was illegal to carry her weapon onto campus.*"

That's outrageous and insane.

So Sen. John Lee introduced a bill last session to allow responsible and trained young women like Amanda Collins to carry their weapons on campus for self-protection. That bill passed in the Senate and surely had the votes to pass in Kite's Assembly. But the Democrat Judiciary Chairman, William Horne, stuck it in his drawer and refused to allow a vote on it.

Did Kelly and his fellow Republicans demand passage of the Amanda Collins Act in return for their vote for the \$620 million tax hike? No.

6.) Ditto the issue Kelly raises about construction defect laws. The fact is, the law as it is right now allows greedy, unscrupulous slip-and-spill, ambulance-chasing personal injury lawyers to make a **KILLING** off the backs of small construction contractors...many who actually have absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the alleged "defect."

Did Kelly and his fellow Assembly Republicans demand changes in the construction defect law in exchange for their vote for the \$620 million tax hike. No. They got absolutely nothing. Not even a bag of magic beans.

Do me a favor: If I'm ever kidnapped by Muslim terrorists, PLEASE do not let Kelly Kite and the Assembly Republicans negotiate for my release!!

7.) Now here's the worst part: It's bad enough that Kelly, unlike Sen. Settelmeyer, voted for that \$620 million tax hike last year. But as you can see in his fundraising pitch, he merely "hopes" those tax hikes won't be extended yet again next year.

Well, um, they won't be...not if enough Republican legislators come to their senses, channel their "inner Reagan" and vote **AGAINST** them! I mean, come on...this isn't rocket surgery. After all, the good Lord didn't create Republicans to vote for tax hikes. That's why he made Democrats from one of Barry Goldwater's spare ribs! (*From his "left" side, of course.*)

Look, if Kelly Kite can't get an issue as simple and basic as being opposed to and voting against **TAX HIKES**, is it really a surprise that he got so many other votes wrong in the last session?

Let me conclude with this: You don't need some Las Vegas rabble-rouser to tell you how to vote. And I understand that many of you know Kelly, like Kelly and think he's a wonderful guy. As I said, I'm sure he is. And if this election was for Mr. Congeniality, I'd probably vote for him myself.

But there's a heckuva lot more on the line this year than being liked by the Democrats and going-along-to-get-along. Our state (and country!) is in bad shape. And it's not going to be fixed by being just a little less bad than the Democrats.

It's my opinion – and feel free to disagree with me if you like – that it's time for Republicans in the Legislature to stop being the *minority* party and start being the **OPPOSITION** party.

Nothing wrong with compromising (except on matters of principle). But compromise has to go both ways. It has to be a win-win for both sides. And it's long past time to end this practice of Democrats getting the gold mine and Republicans getting the shaft!

As such, I'm personally supporting **Jim Wheeler** in the Republican primary for Assembly District 39. Jim's also a good guy. Many of you know him, too.

But a **HUGE** difference between Jim and Kelly is that Jim has signed the **Taxpayer Protection Pledge** (*posted prominently on his campaign website at www.Wheeler4Nevada.org*) promising to vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes...including the re-imposition of the "sunsets." With Kelly, his vote is like Momma Gump's box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get.

Conservatively yours,



Chuck Muth
*Former resident of Carson City and
huge fan of the Minden pool!*

P.S. If you're in the neighborhood of the Nevada Republican Party state convention at the Nugget in Sparks on Friday night, May 4th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Poolside Terrace Room, I'll be co-hosting a reception for Jim Wheeler. Please stop by.

P.P.S. Let me leave you with this great quote from conservative economist and columnist Thomas Sowell. In fact, why not copy it and take it into the voting booth with you?

“The real goal should be reduced government spending, rather than balanced budgets achieved by ever rising tax rates to cover ever rising spending.”

P.P.P.S. This letter has been printed and mailed independently at my own expense, exercising my God-given right to free speech - so I ain't filling out any damned "campaign finance report," Ross Miller! You wanna do something about it, bring it on.