

Via Electronic Delivery

Mr. Patrick Steel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Politico  
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 800  
Arlington, VA 22209



THE  
AMERICAN  
CONSERVATIVE  
UNION

Mr. Matthew Kaminski Editor-in-Chief  
Politico  
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 800  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Messrs. Steel and Kaminski:

January 26, 2021

Politico's "ethos" is prominently displayed on its web page. "*We dedicate ourselves to providing accurate, nonpartisan impactful information to the right people at the right time so that they can act with confidence and speed.*" But once again, we see Politico's ethos abandoned, and instead find its reporters working, not to report news, but instead to create a self-justifying narrative to support its own partisanship.

We understand that Politico reporters are calling sponsors of our national conference (CPAC) and making claims about both our Chairman and our conference that are contrary to the facts. We know this because those very same potential sponsors have immediately contacted us. In pushing a misleading narrative to our supporters using corporate resources, Politico is attempting to chill sponsorship of CPAC and harm the American Conservative Union.

This effort amounts to tortious interference with business relationships. And whether you realize it or not, you are demonstrating to our sponsors and supporters your political bias. Fortunately, most see this effort for what it is: "fake news."

Our Founding Fathers understood that the press has a special role to play in our democracy. As such, the Framers accorded the news media with protections in the First Amendment. However, Politico's continued campaign against the American Conservative Union crosses the line from protected speech to political activism. Based on reporter inquiries relayed to us, the unsupported claims, insinuations, and falsehoods made by Politico appear intended to "cancel" both CPAC and the American Conservative Union itself.

There was a time when the American Conservative Union and Politico had a professional relationship – one in which your reporters actually covered CPAC, rather than worked to sabotage it. Although the American Conservative Union would rather find a solution that results in "accurate, nonpartisan" reporting again, **we fully intend to explore our legal rights to hold Politico fully accountable for what we see as tortious conduct.**

Sincerely,

David H. Safavian  
General Counsel