

We are writing in response to your letter regarding ASAE's response to the election of Donald Trump for President.

We recognize and respect that a significant portion of ASAE's membership has very deep feelings about President-elect Trump's actions prior to, during and subsequent to the campaign. We also want to acknowledge and apologize for the inappropriate AN Daily headline and the unintended message that sent to our membership.

ASAE has had a long and consistent position of opposing divisive and discriminatory policies. We are already on record with several states regarding our opposition to policies that allow individuals to discriminate and deny public accommodations based on religious beliefs. As an example, we are working with the Texas Society of Association Executives on the impending discriminatory legislation being considered in that state. We also have created tools and samples for associations to use in opposing such measures.

Given ASAE's strong and steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusion, please be assured that ASAE will aggressively communicate with the administration if policies or regulations are put forth that are in opposition to our stated policies and beliefs.

In addition, we strongly believe that ASAE should not be viewed as an adversary of the administration but rather, a trusted convener of the association community to provide solutions to our most pressing problems. We want to bring people together, not divide them. It is in this context that ASAE is committed to working with the incoming President and his administration and, when necessary, passionately advocating against public policies that could be adverse to the goals and objectives of our members.

Disrespect is the antithesis of what associations stand for, and is in complete opposition to our commitment to diversity and inclusion. We believe inviting constructive and deliberate discourse and leveraging associations' influence is the best approach to achieve our desired outcomes. To do that, we partner with those whose perspectives and values are consistent with ASAE's. We must also engage constructively in deliberation with individuals whose goals and values differ from those held collectively by our association community.

It is in this engagement that we demonstrate the highest value of associations—to convene, consider and create opportunities for change. ASAE's commitment to advancing the power of associations has never been greater than it is today.

We understand and very much appreciate the heartfelt sentiments expressed in your letter. We look forward to working together to advance associations at every opportunity.

Respectfully,



Scott D. Wiley, FASAE, CAE
Chair of the Board, ASAE
President & CEO
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