



Stephen L. Nass
Wisconsin State Representative

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rep. Steve Nass (608) 266-5715

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Nass: Smithsonian protest art must be removed

State Representative Steve Nass (R-Whitewater), Chairman of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee has demanded that Wisconsin protest art archived by the National Museum of American History be immediately removed. **“We have successfully prevented the display of protest art at the University of Wisconsin Extension in Madison. Since we won’t allow it to be displayed in Wisconsin, it shouldn’t be supported by federal taxes either,”** Nass said.

Nass noted that posters and placards carried by Wisconsin demonstrators are adorning the walls of the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History. **“We ask why is the Smithsonian listed as sponsoring this when certainly it’s more appropriate for a labor organization or a labor union to do that?”**

The Smithsonian is administered and funded by the government of the United States. The Smithsonian has requested \$797.6 million from Congress in 2011 to fund its operations.

Rep. Nass’s position has been supported by Representative Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin), chairman of the House Budget Committee, and by Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin), member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Rep. Ryan promises to introduce a bill soon ordering the removal of the Wisconsin protest art. **“Look, you can’t be displaying and archiving art that celebrates protests which were heavily aimed at Republicans, and then expect that Republicans are going to smile nicely and sit down and try and work with the Smithsonian,”** Ryan said.

In a statement Senator Johnson agreed: “We believe that there are a lot of people who pay taxes who don’t support the protests.”

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