

Rebecca Blumenstein President, Editorial, NBC News

Carrie Budoff Brown Senior Vice President, Politics, NBC News

Cesar Conde Chairman, NBCUniversal News Group

Dear Rebecca Blumenstein, Carrie Budoff Brown, and Cesar Conde,

We are writing to express our profound concern and disappointment regarding the recent decision by NBC News to employ former Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel as a political analyst.

We are the co-chairs of Issue One's <u>National Council on Election Integrity</u>, a bipartisan group of former government officials and national security leaders united to defend the legitimacy of our free and fair elections.

During her tenure as the chair of the RNC, Ms. McDaniel's <u>propagation</u> of <u>baseless conspiracy theories</u> significantly undermined public trust in our electoral processes. During the 2020 election, her <u>unfounded allegations</u> regarding ballots in Rochester Hills, Michigan, were not only false but dangerously inflammatory. Her statements led to horrific <u>death threats</u> against Tina Barton, the city clerk of Rochester Hills, and contributed to the rancorous political environment and incitement that resulted in the deadly attack on our Capitol on January 6, 2021.

As bipartisan leaders committed to upholding the rule of law and the peaceful transfer of power, we urge NBC News to reconsider their decision to hire Ms. McDaniel. The role of the media in fostering an informed citizenry is critical, especially in our current perniciously polarized environment, and it is imperative that those in influential positions demonstrate a commitment to the truth and respect for our democratic institutions.

We trust that NBC News will prioritize their own high journalistic standards and the health of our democracy in its staffing decisions.

## Sincerely,

The Hon. Barbara Comstock (R-VA)

The Hon. Donna Edwards (D-MD)

The Hon. Tim Roemer (D-IN)

The Hon. Zach Wamp (R-TN)

Co-chairs, National Council on Election Integrity