

Marriott Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
The National Center for Public Policy Research
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, representing my colleague at the National Center, David Ridenour, who is a Marriott shareholder.

According to the *Washington Post*, our CEO thinks that religious freedom has no value in our country. Referring to Indiana's religious freedom law, Mr. Sorenson called it "madness" and "idiocy."ⁱ Mr. Sorenson joined an echo chamber – led by the leftist media – in distorting what Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA's) are all about. He should be embarrassed.

The federal government and 31 states have RFRA's and none of them legalize discrimination against anyone. What Mr. Sorenson and the media have done is to distort common sense laws to attack Americans of faith. You show me a gay couple who can't find someone willing to bake them a wedding cake, and I will show you liars. What the left has done, in the words of esteemed law professor Richard Epstein is to give the law its "broadest possible construction and then give a parade of horrors, none of which have ever occurred."ⁱⁱ

The federal RFRA, which was co-authored by now-deceased liberal icon Ted Kennedy and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993, and state religious freedom laws simply set a high threshold if the government seeks to impinge upon someone's religious liberties. If the government crosses that line, the injured party can go to court and seek relief. That's it.

What Mr. Sorenson did was taint Marriott's brand with extreme anti-religious bigotry. American society was set up to protect discreet and insular minorities. Today, that has become the Indiana pizza shop and the small cake makers who Marriott has joined with the mob in trying to destroy. Despite Sorenson's outlandish attacks on Indiana law, Marriott does business in many countries where homosexuality is outlawed and homosexuals are imprisoned and even killed.

So my question is this: will Marriott cease all business operations in countries where homosexuality is illegal and will it also cease business with the U.S. federal government and close its hotels in the 31 states with religious freedom laws?

Contact:

David Almasi at (202) 543-4110 x11 or (703) 568-4727 (text-enabled) or dalmasi@nationalcenter.org

Judy Kent at (703) 759-7476 or jkent@nationalcenter.org

The National Center for Public Policy Research

501 Capitol Court NE

Washington, DC 20002

(202) 543-4110

www.nationalcenter.org • www.conservativeblog.org • @NationalCenter

ⁱ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-leadership/wp/2015/04/01/walmart-ceo-speaks-out-against-religious-freedom-bill-in-arkansas/>

ⁱⁱ <http://thefederalist.com/2015/04/02/the-libertarian-discrimination-religious-liberty-and-how-we-undervalue-free-association/>