

August 11, 2017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are outraged and distressed to learn that one of your biggest campaign donors, Dan Loeb, has compared one of the highest ranking elected officials in the state, Senator Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, to the Ku Klux Klan.

Specifically, Loeb said that Senator Stewart-Cousins has done “more damage to people of color than anyone who has ever donned a hood.” Loeb, as you know, is a hedge fund billionaire who has contributed over \$170,000 to your campaign accounts, according to *The New York Times*, and this does not even include pass through donations from political action committees.

Andrea Stewart-Cousins is a highly respected elected official and the highest-ranking African-American female elected official in the history of the state. Loeb’s extremely offensive and racist attack on Senator Stewart-Cousins requires swift and dramatic action.

As a longstanding ally of Loeb, and the leader of the State of New York and of the Democratic Party in New York, it is essential that you provide leadership to show that such racist statements will not be tolerated in any way. This must begin with you: It would be unconscionable to keep Mr. Loeb’s money and to continue to allow him to influence policy in Albany after his un-American attack on Leader Stewart-Cousins.

We demand that you immediately return every dollar that Loeb has contributed to your campaign funds as well as any funds from PACs that he supports.

Loeb has used his wealth to promote an agenda that has devastated communities of color and working families. He uses his political influence to advance an attack on public schools in favor of large charter networks that contribute to school segregation and employ zero tolerance discipline policies that fuel the school-to-prison pipeline by criminalizing students of color.

As the Chairman of Success Academy Charter School, he has been instrumental in building that institution’s public support for both Paul Ryan and Donald Trump. He is a close ally and supporter of Paul Ryan and his plans to gut programs to support people as they seek to lift themselves out of poverty.

Meanwhile, he destroyed hundreds of manufacturing jobs in Upstate New York and thousands more nationwide in Delphi deals, and has sought to profiteer off of Puerto Rico’s debt, resulting in tragic cuts to schools, hospitals and wages on the island.

It is imperative that you disassociate yourself entirely from Dan Loeb and send a clear message that he has no place in public policy in New York State.

You have said much about New York being a progressive leader in the nation and your commitment to progressive values. But now our state is being tested by a bigoted billionaire, and it is time for actions to follow your words.

Sincerely,

Action Potluck

Alliance for Quality
Education

Badass Teachers Association

The Black Institute

Brooklyn Movement Center

Citizen Action of New York

Hedge Clippers

Justice League NYC

Make the Road New York

New York Communities for
Change

New York Indivisible

Strong Economy for All

True Blue NY

Working Families Party