

I had hoped to spend my last few weeks as VARD's Executive Director focusing on the many opportunities for our community to responsibly plan growth. Now I've had to redirect my attention to respond to Mr. Boyle's false allegations against VARD and Jeff Carter.

We should be able to have different viewpoints in our community and to engage in healthy debate. Instead Mr. Boyle has consistently introduced false allegations and character assassination in order to brew enough fear and doubt to promote his particular viewpoint.

Mr. Boyle is wrong in his allegations. He refers to a letter sent from VARD which he admits was "sent out after the 2004 election". *After* Jeff Carter had lost the county commissioner race. From my understanding, after you lose an election, you're not considered a candidate anymore.

It is not uncommon for former candidates or elected officials to promote charitable causes using their notoriety. Jimmy Carter establishing the Carter Center for Human Rights and Bob Dole's work for the WWII Memorial are two examples. Jeff chose, after his campaign, to promote responsible development in Teton Valley.

In response to Mr. Boyle's accusation that VARD is illegally attempting to influence legislation, our tax attorney has written a letter which can be viewed on our website [www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org](http://www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org) under "What's New". To quote briefly from his letter:

Section 501c (3) exempts from certain tax organizations that are charitable, educational, religious, or scientific...The regulations provide that an "organization may be educational even though it advocates a particular position or viewpoint so long as it presents a sufficiently full and fair exposition of the pertinent facts as to permit an individual or the public to form an independent opinion or conclusion."

In addition, VARD has stayed well within its lobbying limits under IRS code. This is clearly stated in our annual, publicly available, 990 IRS form, which I have stated repeatedly to the Teton Valley Alliance.

Of course, I can't assume that Mr. Boyle would be very knowledgeable about IRS law for charitable organizations because the TVA has chosen to remain a private organization outside of any disclosure laws, whether they be IRS or state election laws.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Boyle feels he needs to use faulty accusations to discredit VARD, or the decision makers he has chosen to target, in an effort to promote his viewpoint. Our community's discussion on growth needs to come from empowerment based on truth. We have too much at stake for us to get bogged down by efforts to promote doubt, fear and distrust.

Kathy Rinaldi, Executive Director

Valley Advocates for Responsible Development