

ALVIN TOWNLEY

February 17, 2014

Members of the Committee,

I've spent several years traveling across America telling Scouting's story via my books on Eagle Scouts, and I've spoken in nearly 100 councils, meeting a host of BSA professionals and wonderful volunteers. During those engagements, I've noticed that some councils have a certain energy – one that's still difficult for me to define. But I do know that energy largely stems from council leadership. It's the Scout Executive who can create an aura of excitement within his community and thus engage the right people in volunteer leadership who, in turn, really light a fire in the council.

Even though Winchester was snowy and cold when I visited, I could feel a warmth in the donors and supporters who'd gathered to support Scouting. The Council seemed to have energy often felt in only large councils and I saw a community truly mobilized around Scouting. And much of that flowed from the great leadership of Stuart Williams – and the charm of his wife Jennifer. They are a terrific First Couple for a council and are advocates for youth and can step into that role comfortably and ably.

Stuart and I have remained in touch and shared ideas and thoughts about the Movement's future – its global nature and real potential – and I believe he can bring great energy and perspective to the Council and help Scouting reach more youth in your state. I'd encourage you to talk with Stuart, hear his ideas, and see what unique abilities he can bring – I believe you'll be encouraged by his dedication, energy, and abilities.

Thank you for your consideration of Stuart and this letter.

With best regards,

Alvin Townley