

Dear Mr. Bradford,

This is not a promotional or advertising letter of any sort. I am a broadcast engineer from northern New York. I have a strong interest and background in Intelligence and also National Security. Last year I saw the story of Tim Latham and observed what happened. It is sad that in a country where tolerance and freedoms exist that incidents like this happen. A good teacher should help students think, explore, question, then decide for themselves. From what I can see, this is what Mr. Latham expects from his students. As a school board member, you understand what is required as a leader. Mr. Latham is also a leader, and is enabling his students to also become leaders if they wish.

The reason for this letter is that I am concerned for Mr. Latham's continued employment at the district. I know his contract is up for renewal April 15<sup>th</sup>. I realize political situations in a school district are difficult. The levels of bureaucracy, union contracts, personal feelings and beliefs, and parental pressures all make objective decisions difficult. The final question, as you know, should be "What is best for you students?". Is teaching History and Government as they were and are a good choice? Should students see multiple viewpoints and decide for themselves? Or should they be limited to non-controversial items? There is a college student living with my family from Belarus/Russia. She appreciates our freedoms and has seen the results of systems unlike ours. The online English version of *Russia Today* dated November 14, 2008 has an article on "America's Forgotten Freedoms". Here is a small quote... remember, the writer is Russian...

"What makes this year's results more shocking is that 4 out of 10 people questioned could not name any freedom at all. Whatever freedoms the constitution of the country may guarantee, it does not matter much since these rights are neither remembered nor needed as such. The findings indicate that modern Americans do not think along the same lines as the Founders of the U.S. "

Tim Latham is helping to change this. Please support his continued employment in your school district. Thank you for giving this teacher your personal consideration.

Sincerely,