

BILL COLE *for Governor*

PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'NEIL

November 19, 2015

Mr. Kenneth Predue, President
West Virginia AFL-CIO
501 Leon Sullivan Way, Suite 300
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Mr. Perdue:

While I understand that you disagree with my decision to take up right to work in the upcoming legislative session, it is completely unacceptable for you to make up and promote lies about my plans in the race for Governor. On Tuesday, you appeared as a guest on *TalkLine* with Hoppy Kerchevall to talk about a recent study by West Virginia University's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Rather than address the findings of the study, you falsely claimed that my intent in trying to pass right to work is driven by a desire to reduce union membership. That is simply not true. As I have said, I will do everything possible to grow our state's economy and create jobs. Right to work has proven successful in other states including Oklahoma, Indiana, Michigan and Virginia, and I am confident it can make a positive impact here in West Virginia. We are dead last in job growth according to *Forbes* and lead the nation in unemployment. We can no longer afford to simply keep doing what we have always done and hope for a better result.

Most disturbing and insulting, at the end of the interview you flat out lied by making up a plan that I have called for the firing of 15,000 state employees if I become Governor. You stated, "*We were just told by Senate President Cole that they plan on firing 15,000 workers when he becomes Governor. ...Where did that come from?*" That is a good question. Where did it come from other than you making it up or repeating false information? I have never made any such claim and have no such plan. So please provide me with the documentation of when and where I supposedly made this claim.

I have always had an open relationship with you and respected and listened to your position on any issue. However, it will be difficult for me to continue to do so since you have taken to not only lying about my record, but also making up lies about things that I might do. We can disagree on policy issues and still have a working relationship as long as you conduct yourself in an honest and truthful manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Cole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "B" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Bill Cole