



MINUTEMAN INDIVISIBLE

May 14, 2018

Subject: Supporting Democracy

To the Governor's Office:

We want to thank Governor Baker for publicly stating he would not vote for Donald Trump during the 2016 election and for speaking out against some of the President's statements and actions including his comments about the white supremacists who marched in Charlottesville and immigrants from African countries and his exchange with the widow of a fallen soldier. We also appreciate his willingness to support policies that differ from the President's, including support for DACA and contraceptive coverage for women, and showing his commitment to bipartisanship in his dealings with the legislature and other elected officials.

But as the authors of *How Democracies Die* point out, checking Donald Trump's authoritarian tendencies requires prominent members of the Republican party to do more than just criticizing the President's statements or supporting a few policies that the President opposes:

"When faced with a would-be authoritarian, establishment politicians must unambiguously reject him or her and do everything possible to defend democratic institutions - even if that means temporarily joining forces with bitter rivals."

On page 70 of the book, they specifically mention Gov. Baker as one of the active Republican leaders who refused to support Trump, but was unwilling to endorse Hillary Clinton, an action they recognize would be highly unusual, but one that is required when faced with the challenge to our democracy that Trump presents. The book presents a well-researched and reasoned argument for how Republican leaders have stepped up to this type of challenge in the past and why they need to do so now.

We hope Governor Baker will not only continue to speak out when the President flouts important democratic norms such as the freedom of the press, independence of the judiciary, and the constitutional rights of everyone living in the United States, but will also take proactive steps to protect and strengthen our democratic institutions by supporting the legislation we have discussed during today's meeting and in our other letters and publicly join with other state officials

and our congressional delegation who are speaking out on important federal actions (e.g. to protect the special counsel's investigation or preserve net neutrality).

Lisa Baci,
Minuteman Indivisible Board and Book Club Team Leader