

Political Weaponization of Labels: The Rampart Investigation

How average Americans unwittingly become 'domestic terrorists'

Prepared by: **Center For Self Governance**

INTRODUCTION

This document (*Political Weaponization of Labels – The Rampart Investigation*) was prepared, as a part of a larger series, by the Center for Self Governance (CSG), for those who are seeking to understand the use of and/or counter the 'Extreme, White, Domestic Terror' (EWDT) labeling strategies wielded by Partisan Groups, Media, Non-Government Organizations, Businesses and Academia.

The reader should use the enclosed talking points, in the short-term, to understand and/or counter EWDT labeling. These points also describe the importance of preventing the future creation of federal Domestic Terrorism Code.

Currently, "Domestic Terrorism" labels do not legally apply to those who are not connected to federally designated International Terrorist Nations, Groups, or Individuals. The underlying 'EWDT' strategy, CSG concludes, is woefully intended to create Domestic Terrorism Code, within the next 2-5 years, that will be applied to U.S. citizens who are not Internationally connected to federally designated 'terrorists.'

The Rampart Investigation document (see appendix) is being used to label, and possibly impeach, a WA State Representative as an 'Extreme, White, Domestic Terrorist (EWDT) and by extension, those who have voted for or are affiliated with him. The following document provides data and resources that expose the extreme bias and deliberate redaction of exculpatory facts in the Rampart Investigation document.

Since the Rampart document is being used to discredit and potentially impeach a sitting State Representative it is of paramount importance to determine if the data and conclusions promoted by the Rampart Investigation is verifiable, complete, and accurate. If the serious charges being made in the Rampart Investigation Report are based on ***inaccurate, politically biased, or misleading information***, then our political system is being manipulated and undermined by the promotion of those untruths.

SYNOPSIS OF BIASED AND FAULTY LABELING IN THE RAMPART INVESTIGATION

The "unbiased" Rampart¹ investigation into WA State Representative Matt Shea's "Domestic Terrorism, and by extension, those affiliated with him," is:

1. Left-Wing Politically Biased
2. Negligent to include ALL facts related to:
 - a. The Bundy Standoff
 - b. The Priest River Veteran Gun Confiscation
 - c. The Malheur Occupation
3. Falsely claiming Domestic Terrorism applies to American Citizens who are not connected to International Terrorist Organizations

¹ Rampart Investigation, December 2019, Page 5

LEFT-WING POLITICAL BIAS

The “unbiased” Rampart investigation uses the following left-wing biased sources:

- Wikipedia.com (Wiki)
- Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
- Leah Sottile, Oregon Public Radio & Longreads (LSottile)
- Daniel Walters, Inlander.com (DWalters)

WIKI –

The “unbiased” Rampart investigation uses Wiki as their 1st 10 sources². Facebook and YouTube rely exclusively on Wiki to source posts & videos³. FB & YT are known to censor right-leaning groups & individuals. Wiki also lists a **2009 Obama Administration** created “Extremism Lexicon” and has not updated to the Trump Administration created “Extremism Lexicon”. The 2009 “Extremism Lexicon” lists “Patriot Movement” as extreme.

The **2009 Obama Administration** “Extremism Lexicon”⁴ states on Page 7:

(U) **patriot movement** (U//FOUO) A term used by rightwing extremists to link their beliefs to those commonly associated with the American Revolution. The patriot movement primarily comprises violent antigovernment groups such as militias and sovereign citizens. (also: Christian patriots, patriot group, Constitutionlists, Constitutionalist)

The **2009 Obama Administration** “Extremism Lexicon” also states on Page 8:

(U) **rightwing extremism** (U//FOUO) A movement of rightwing groups or individuals who can be broadly divided into those who are primarily:

- **hate-oriented**, and
- those who are **mainly antigovernment** and
- **reject federal authority in favor of state or local authority.**

This term also may refer to rightwing extremist movements that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration. (**also known as far right, extreme right**)

SPLC –

The “unbiased” Rampart investigation sources SPLC as a so-called credible unbiased expert on Extreme, White, Right-Wing, Terror.

- SPLC has listed both President Trump⁵ and Vice President Pence⁶ as extreme white supremacists.
- SPLC has been sued by numerous right-wing organizations⁷ for defamation.
- SPLC had to settle a multi-million-dollar lawsuit⁸ for defamation against a Muslim in 2018.

In SPLC’s Fall “Intelligence Report”⁹ they state:

“When companies terminate accounts, **extremists** turn to brands whose services allow them to bankroll hate...Mastercard shareholders voted down SumOfUs, a resolution that proposed creating an

² <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6589242-Shea-WA-House-Report.html> (Page 82)

³ “Political Weaponization of Labels”, Center for Self Governance, October 2019

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_Extremism_Lexicon

⁵ <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2019/year-hate-rage-against-change>

⁶ <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2019/pence-problem>

⁷ https://www.redstate.com/brandon_morse/2018/06/20/southern-poverty-law-center-faces-dozens-lawsuits-organizations-falsely-labeled-hate-groups/

⁸ <https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/crime/item/29352-acting-like-a-hate-group-splc-pays-large-settlement-and-may-be-sued-further>

⁹ <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2019/last-word-when-dollars-matter-more-decency>

internal committee to monitor payments made to **far-right extremist** groups. [MasterCard] continues to process payments to **hate groups...**"

SPLC is referenced in thousands of so-called mainstream media articles on 'extremism,' 'hate,' or 'white supremacy' as a credible expert source, for example:

- (1) **The Washington Post** has archived over 1000 articles ¹⁰sourcing SPLC
- (2) **The New York Times** has archived nearly 1000 ¹¹articles sourcing SPLC
- (3) **Politico.com** has archived over 700 articles ¹²sourcing SPLC
- (4) **MotherJones.com** has archived over 200 ¹³articles sourcing SPLC

SPLC is relied upon by businesses to identify so-called **extremist** groups who may be transacting on their platforms, for example:

(1) **Amazon Smile** - Organizations must be public charitable organizations that are registered and in good standing with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) to be eligible to participate. Amazon relies on ...the **Southern Poverty Law Center** to determine which organizations...engage in, support, encourage, or promote intolerance, **hate, terrorism, violence**, money laundering, or other illegal activities are not eligible to participate.

What definition does SPLC use for 'terrorism?'

- (2) **PayPal** CEO Dan Schulman explains his organization's relationship ¹⁴with SPLC in combatting 'fringe' groups labeled 'extreme' or 'hate.'
- (3) **JP Morgan Chase** announced it would give \$500,000¹⁵ to the SPLC in order to "confront hate, intolerance, and discrimination." The company has also matched employee contributions
- (4) **Apple CEO Tim Cook** announced his company would give \$1 million ¹⁶to the SPLC and that it would set up a system in iTunes software to let consumers directly donate to the organization.

SPLC is relied on by major social media companies for '**extremist**' information sharing and intelligence, for example:

- (1) **Google Inc.** partners with and funds organizations¹⁷, like SPLC, that use "data science and innovative new approaches to advance inclusion and justice for all", while "addressing racial bias and inequity in the United States, particularly in the criminal justice system."
- (2) **YouTube.com** partners with SPLC, in its 'Trusted Flaggers' program¹⁸, to assist in 'policing' for 'extremist' or 'hate' content on its platform.
- (3) **Facebook.com** partners with SPLC, to inform their "hate speech policies." ¹⁹Facebook representatives emphasized the two organizations differed on the extent of the definition of 'hate.'

¹⁰<https://www.washingtonpost.com/newssearch/?datefilter=All%20Since%202005&query=southern%20poverty%20law%20center&sort=Relevance&spellcheck&startat=20#top>

¹¹<https://www.nytimes.com/search?query=southern+poverty+law+center>

¹²<https://www.politico.com/search?q=southern+poverty+law+center>

¹³<https://www.motherjones.com/?s=%22Southern+Poverty+Law+Center%22>

¹⁴<https://www.wsj.com/articles/paypal-ceo-grapples-with-fringe-groups-11551016800>

¹⁵<https://money.cnn.com/2017/08/21/news/companies/jpmorgan-donates-charlottesville-hate-groups/index.html>

¹⁶<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2017/08/17/splc-statement-generous-donation-apple>

¹⁷<https://www.google.org/our-work/inclusion/>

¹⁸https://dailycaller.com/2018/02/27/google-youtube-southern-poverty-law-center-censorship/?utm_source=site-share

¹⁹<https://dailycaller.com/2018/06/06/splc-partner-google-facebook-amazon/>

SPLC partners with universities to collaborate with funding and research about ‘right wing’ movements, groups, and individuals.

(1) **University of California at Berkeley’s Center for Right Wing Studies** is a collaboration with the Southern Poverty Law Center. Their site states²⁰: “We are also grateful for generous funding given by the Southern Poverty Law Center”

LSottile –

The “unbiased” Rampart investigation sources²¹ LSottile’s *Bundyville: The Remnant*²².

Her **so-called unbiased report, Bundyville: The Remnant**, about LaVoy Finicum (AZ rancher killed, in 2016, in Oregon due to the Malheur Occupation), attempts to link WA State Rep. Matt Shea, to extremism, white supremacy, right-wing, and terrorism. She does not report that the leaders in the Malheur Occupation were found NOT GUILTY.

Her report is based on the premise that, *as an extremist*, LaVoy Finicum was seeking martyrdom. She bases this assumption on the idea that the main character in Finicum's book *Only By Blood and Suffering*, was killed. However, this character, Jake, does *not die* in the book. Her entire premise and her report should be questioned on this basis alone. It certainly is not a credible source for the impeachment of a sitting State Representative.

She also uses the term “**Patriot Movement**” found in the **2009 Obama Administration’s “Extremism Lexicon”** to link WA Representative Matt Shea to LaVoy Finicum as Extreme, White, Domestic Terrorists (EWDT).

This phrase is used to characterize those who are religious or support the U.S. Constitution as ‘extremists.’ Both WA State Representative Matt Shea and LaVoy Finicum publicly declared their religious faiths and support for the U.S. Constitution.

She **fails to report** that LaVoy went to Oregon to protest on behalf of the imprisonment of Dwight & Steve Hammond.

She **fails to report** that President Trump pardoned both Dwight & Steve Hammond in July 2018.

She **fails to report** that LaVoy was protesting federal policies related to grazing and ranching.

She **fails to report** that President Trump restored grazing and ranching to the Hammonds in January 2019.

She **fails to report** that she heard undercover audio of Oregon State Police admitting that no state laws were broken in the Malheur Occupation in the documentary: LaVoy-Dead Man Talking (Episode 2).

She **fails to report** the leaders in the Malheur Occupation were found **NOT GUILTY** in October 2016.

It is also worth noting that LSottile **has not reported** on the Left-Wing takeover of a Federal facility in Portland, Oregon, in June 2018, where Left-Wing violent extremists spit in an African American Federal Agents face, called him the ‘N’ word, and occupied the federal facility.

She **has failed to report** on the Left-Wing Extremist Terrorist Willem Von Spronsen, 69-year old white male, who blew up a car and tried to violently take over a federal facility in Tacoma, WA in July 2019.

Is her reporting biased?

If so, how should this impact the “unbiased” Rampart Investigation?

²⁰<https://crws.berkeley.edu/fbi-foia-archive>

²¹<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6589242-Shea-WA-House-Report.html> (Page 92-93, 96)

²²<https://longreads.com/bundyville/>

DWalters –

The “unbiased” Rampart investigation sources²³ DWalters dozens of times.

DWalters, in one of his Rampart sourced articles, deliberately refers to LaVoy Finicum, WA State Representative Matt Shea, and the CSG as part of the “broader **Patriot Movement**.”²⁴

Keep in mind, the Rampart Investigation’s primary focus was on WA Representative Matt Shea’s so-called connection to what they also termed the “**Patriot Movement**.”

In the following text exchange ²⁵between the President of CSG, Mark Herr and DWalters, he admits to using unclear and misleading definitions - the same labels used in the Rampart investigation:

AUGUST 2, 2018

M: Good Afternoon Dan. I read your article and its headline. I am disappointed that you chose to label CSG ‘Far Right’. How do you define ‘Far Right?’

Keep in mind, that ‘far right’ is used to describe ‘right-wing extremists’ as part of the ‘Patriot Movement’ in the 2009 Obama Administration’s ‘Extremism’ Lexicon

D: More conservative or radical in significant ways than the mainstream Republican party. How would you define ‘far right.’ Most speakers at the Red Pill Expo would apply in this category. Few would disagree that Breitbart, for example, is Far Right. You used the label “altleftwing,” for example, in your definition of label lynching.

M: ‘Far Right’ is an alternative term for ‘Right Wing Extremism’ according to the (2009 Obama Administration’s) Lexicon for ‘Domestic Extremism’ ... Right wing extremists are defined as ‘hate groups,’ ‘anti-government,’ and ‘reject Federal authority’ ... Our organization, Center For Self Governance is not a ‘hate group’ ‘anti-government’ nor ‘reject federal authority’

D: **My glossary isn’t the (2009 Obama Administration’s)**

M: We are a 501c3 federally recognized non-profit education organization. So you reject the federal definition of Far Right and ‘right wing extremism’?

D: **The (2009 Obama Administration’s) definition is not our style guide.** Were the Oregon occupiers far right, in your opinion?

M: I am only referring to Center for Self Governance. Will you retract your labeling of Center for Self Governance as FAR RIGHT?

D: Do you believe Breitbart is far right?

M: We are a non-partisan organization Dan. The article we referenced on March 7 was to highlight LABEL LYNCHING occurs on both sides of the political spectrum

D: Citizens worldwide activate Patriot cells for self-government” You want to tell me that’s not far right? Come on.

Keep in mind, he is solely focused on so-called ‘right-wing’ extremism.

M: Are both political sides of the spectrum guilty of LABEL LYNCHING? Jeanette Finicum takes exception to your portrayal of her husband’s relationship with Keebler in your article.

M: **Will you also clarify that your personal definition does not comport with Federal government definitions...and CSG does not fit Federal definitions for FAR RIGHT?**

D: I already told you it does not. And offered my definition

M: Will you clarify in your article the distinction?

D: **I explained that this was part of the broad Patriot Movement and defined what that was.**

NOTE: ‘Patriot movement’ is listed in the DHS Lexicon on ‘Extremism’

M: Your characterization of ‘radical’ and fitting Federal definition of FAR RIGHT stand in stark contrast. Your clarification would give readers accurate depiction of our relationship to the Federal government...

²³<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6589242-Shea-WA-House-Report.html> (Page 84-85, 87, 89, 92, 95, 97)

²⁴<https://www.inlander.com/spokane/label-lynching-the-new-far-right-buzzword-has-become-part-of-the-malheur-standoff-narrative/Content?oid=11198236>

²⁵“Political Weaponization of Labels”, Center for Self Governance, October 2019

M: It is not accurate depiction of our organization and labels us according to your opinion not based on Federal standards that can be used to target our organization as DOMESTIC EXTREMISTS with a potential to commit acts of domestic terrorism.

M: Are you okay with painting our organization in that light?

D: Do you think its fair to characterize the refuge occupiers as extremists?

FEBRUARY 9, 2019

M: Hi Daniel, wondering if we could get your reaction to the Hammond's being pardoned and having their grazing permits returned last week. **Do those actions vindicate LaVoy Finicum** – those are the 2 reasons he protested at the Oregon refuge? **Or would you characterize him as a right-wing extremist/terrorist irregardless?**

D: **I never characterized LaVoy as a terrorist.** His death is very sad and the pardon doesn't change that.

M: Considering the Hammond outcome, do Finicum's actions still qualify as extreme or are those actions vindicated?

D: **An armed occupation of a government facility definitionally qualifies as extreme.**

M: **Do you feel the unarmed occupation of the government facility, last year, in Portland definitionally qualifies as non-extreme**

NO RESPONSE AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS DOCUMENT

OCTOBER 28, 2019

M: Hi Dan, wondering if we could get your reaction to the president using the term "lynching" in reference to his claims the impeachment proceedings are a violation of his due process rights...are the tones similar to the LaVoy Finicum situation?

NO RESPONSE AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS DOCUMENT

DWalters **has not reported** on the Left-Wing takeover of a Federal facility in Portland, Oregon, in June 2018, where Left-Wing violent extremists spit in an African American Federal Agents face, called him the 'N' word, and occupied the federal facility.

He also **has failed to report** on the Left-Wing Extremist Terrorist Willem Von Spronsen, 69-year old white male, who blew up a car and tried to violently take over a federal facility in Tacoma, WA in July 2019.

Is his reporting biased? If so, how should *this* impact the "unbiased" Rampart Investigation?

NEGLIGENT TO INCLUDE ALL FACTS:

The "unbiased" Rampart investigation uses the following events to accuse WA Representative Matt Shea, and by extension, anyone affiliated with him, of being "DOMESTIC TERRORISTS":

1. The Bundy Standoff
2. The Priest River Veteran Gun Confiscation
3. The Malheur Occupation

THE BUNDY STANDOFF –

Judge Navarro "dismissed with prejudice"²⁶ the case against the leaders of the Bundy Standoff. She stated that DOJ prosecutors²⁷ "flagrant misconduct" violated a "universal sense of justice" and was a "reckless disregard for Constitutional obligations."²⁸

1. The participants in the Bundy Standoff were not charged²⁹ as "DOMESTIC TERRORISTS," because they were not connected to federally designated International Terrorist Individuals or Groups. They were charged with "impeding Federal officers from discharging their duties."

²⁶<https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-bundy-mistrial-2018-story.html>

²⁷<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/01/cliven-bundy-case-dismissed-judge-gloria-navarro-cites-flagrant-federal-misconduct-bureau-land-management/>

²⁸<https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-bundy-mistrial-2018-story.html>

²⁹ conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, conspiracy to impede or injure a federal officer, weapon use and possession, assault on a federal officer, threatening a federal law enforcement officer, obstruction, extortion to interfere with commerce, and interstate travel in aid of extortion

2. This event and its participants were labeled “Domestic Terrorists” by the MEDIA³⁰. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND – their labeling is not legal labeling.**
3. The “unbiased” investigation by Rampart is being used, by the Media and the clients of the report, to mislead the public into believing WA Rep Shea, and by extension, those affiliated with him, as having committed acts of “DOMESTIC TERRORISM.”

This is legally untrue...

THE PRIEST RIVER VETERAN GUN CONFISCATION –

The “unbiased” investigation by Rampart incorrectly accuse WA Representative Matt Shea, and by extension, anyone affiliated with him, of conducting an armed stand-off in Priest River, Idaho.

1. In August 2015: Idaho State Representative Heather Scott stated³¹ in a Facebook post:

“Based on an assessment of a letter I received, I believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs is coming to a veteran’s home in Priest River today to check for and confiscate his guns based on nothing more than a stroke which has left him with some mild physical impairment.

If you feel, as I do, that our veterans should not be treated like 3rd class citizens or common criminals, please join me between 9am and noon at the Congregational Church parking lot on HWY 2 to stand with this Veteran and show that the citizens of Bonner & Boundary County will stand firm on this issue.”

2. Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler told a VA rep that his office would stop any inspection and attempt at a weapons seizure. **No one was arrested for illegally carrying a weapon or making threats against the VA.**
3. Around 1:30pm, that day, the VA announced it would not be conducting an inspection of Arnold's home.

It is factually untrue that this event was an armed conflict...³²

THE MALHEUR OCCUPATION –

The “unbiased” investigation by Rampart accuses WA Representative Matt Shea, and by extension, anyone affiliated with him, of coordinating the Malheur Occupation with the occupation’s leader: Ammon Bundy.

1. Ammon Bundy was **not charged as a DOMESTIC TERRORIST.**³³
2. Ammon Bundy was found **NOT GUILTY.**³⁴

³⁰<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/reid-calls-bundy-supporters-domestic-terrorists/>

³¹https://www.khq.com/news/priest-river-community-stands-up-for-veteran-facing-gun-seizure/article_eadf85b7-d116-53ad-9f3e-ca89adfa04db.html

³²Washington Representative Matt Shea’s facebook post for August 06 2015:

RECAP OF TODAY:

1. Thank you to all of the prayer warriors out there!
2. The situation ended peacefully and John kept his guns. The VA Field Examiner did not show up today but is planning on coming there next week and we were assured will meet outside John’s house to discuss how to officially declare him competent.
3. The VSO that showed up today is helping point John in the right direction.
4. Sheriff Wheeler honored his oath and sided with the people and the Constitution.
5. Citizens from Idaho, Montana, and Washington stood together in the defiance of tyranny.

OBSERVATIONS – THE VA IS DISASTER

1. There was no follow up by the doctor for 8 months on whether he had recovered. Had this happened we likely would not have been there today.
2. The letter is a final determination by a bureaucrat, without any judge or jury. That is not due process.
3. There was no opportunity to appeal BEFORE his right to bear arms was taken away. That is guilty until proven innocent.
4. They are sending these threatening letters to many veterans (read some of the comments in posts below). How callous to put a massive amount of stress on this man who is recovering from a stroke.
5. This would have turned out different if we all had not been there.

³³http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/297973639-bundy-indictment_cctuf1_1526593210968.pdf

³⁴<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/28/us/bundy-brothers-acquitted-in-takeover-of-oregon-wildlife-refuge.html>

3. Ammon Bundy released a statement that WA Representative Matt Shea was **not involved** in coordinating the Malheur Occupation.³⁵

It is factually untrue that ‘Malheur’ was legally categorized as a domestic terrorist event

DOMESTIC TERRORISM DESIGNATION

The “unbiased” investigation by Rampart incorrectly labels WA Representative Matt Shea, and by extension, anyone affiliated with him, as having participated in acts of “DOMESTIC TERRORISM”:

1. Domestic v International Terrorism Definition
2. Conclusion

DOMESTIC V INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DEFINITION –

The Domestic Terrorism legal definition does not apply to U.S. citizens who are not connected to federally designated International Terrorist Individuals or Groups.

During a recent 2019 Congressional hearing on ‘White Supremacy’³⁶ and ‘domestic terrorism’ the following exchange took place and should carefully be understood in connection to the accusation that WA State Representative Matt Shea, and by extension, those who are affiliated with him, are Domestic Terrorists:

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez: We held hearings on white supremacy and its growing role in the U.S. right now...[and] whether the FBI classifies EXTREMIST violence as domestic terrorism or a hate crime has major implications on resource allocation and prioritization within the Bureau.

Cortez: ...why wasn’t Dylan Roof **charged** as a domestic terrorist?

FBI Counter-Terrorism Assistant Director McClarity: You are using the word ‘**charged**’

Cortez: Was the actual ‘**charge**’ domestic terrorism

McClarity: You are not going to find the ‘**charge**’ for domestic terrorism out there.

Cortez: But the San Bernardino shooting. They were ‘**charged**’ as domestic terrorist...

McClarity: They were ‘**charged**’ [as domestic terrorists] if there was a connection to foreign terrorist [designated] organization.

Cortez: Why are White Supremacists not ‘**charged**’ as domestic terrorists

McClarity: Because **Congress doesn’t have a statue for us** on domestic terrorism like they do on a foreign terrorist organization. **The definitions we are using we are talking past each other...**

³⁵<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RyVWGO3ZIY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR111oziKL26XN7FaUvJ0vxYBkZNYBKWCbtSkGwMNGXhbw8idjy-6li1hmQ>

³⁶<https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/confronting-white-supremacy-part-ii-adequacy-of-the-federal-response>

CONCLUSION

The reader should use the enclosed talking points, in the short-term, to understand and/or counter EWDT labeling, and in the long-term, to prevent the creation of federal Domestic Terrorism Code.

The “unbiased” Rampart investigation is biased and deliberately excludes exculpatory facts in the labeling of WA State Representative Matt Shea. By extension, those who are affiliated with him, are in danger of being labeled supporters of Domestic Terrorism. The Rampart Report incorrectly labels the events in this report as Domestic Terrorism related activities, and by extension, WA State Representative Matt Shea, and those affiliated with him, as Domestic Terrorists.

The use of these labels manipulates and undermines our system of government, devalues trust in the U.S. justice system, and politically weaponizes labels.

It is also our conclusion that such behavior is tied to a broader strategy to use individual reports, such as the Rampart Investigation, as a data point, to drive **Congress to create federal Domestic Terrorism code.**³⁷

At present, no such code exists, and a U.S. citizen cannot be classified as a ‘Domestic Terrorist’ unless they are connected to a federally designated International Terrorist Nation, Group, or Individual. Our concern is the creation of Domestic Terrorism code allows for U.S. citizens to be classified or listed as ‘Domestic Terrorists’ without being connected to federally designated International Terrorist Nations, Groups, or Individuals. Currently, U.S. citizens who fit the current legal classification of Domestic Terrorism can be detained indefinitely.³⁸

And as recently demonstrated, a federally designated International Terrorist³⁹ was assassinated by the U.S. without the due process privileges afforded to U.S. citizens. What will happen if Domestic Terrorism labels are extended legally to U.S. citizens who are not connected to International Terrorism? The political weaponization of labels, as demonstrated in the Rampart Investigation, should concern all partisans and U.S. citizens alike.

³⁷<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr4192>

³⁸<https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20191209/CRPT-116hrpt333.pdf>

³⁹<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2049534/statement-by-the-department-of-defense/>

APPENDIX

1. Report of Investigation Regarding Representative Matt Shea

Washington State House of Representatives

December 1, 2019, Page 5

C. Independence of Investigation

Rampart Group LLC operated with total independence throughout this four-month investigation. The determination of facts gathered and included in the final report are based upon witness statements, analysis of source information, documents review, and online research and analysis. Investigators obtained witness information and from other sources of information on a voluntary basis.

Investigators included individuals with extensive experience in career law enforcement and private sector investigations; experience in **conducting independent complex and unbiased investigations**; experience in witness interviews and **obtaining statements**; experience in relationships with confidential sources, experience in document management, assimilation and report writing.

Investigators had no past or present professional, social or otherwise relationship with any members of the Washington State House of Representatives, Representative Shea, witnesses or other confidential sources of information.

Investigators maintained a secure workspace that was accessible only to the Rampart Group LLC team.

Investigators **reviewed and analyzed over 230 open source online news articles**, other references and documents dating 2008 through 2019.

The interviews in this investigation ranged from persons directly associated with Representative Shea who had personal knowledge of his political activities between 2008 through November 2019, to individuals who had direct knowledge of groups or individuals associated with him.

The witnesses were cooperative, forthright and were deemed to be credible and reliable. Some witnesses cooperated in this investigation at great risk to themselves. Several witnesses have been the subject of threats and intimidation by individuals or groups associated with Representative Shea prior to the initiation of this investigation and requested confidentiality.