

From: Coriell, Scott [Scott.Coriell@state.vt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Coriell, Scott
Subject: Gov. Shumlin to Facebook: Think Twice About Messing with Vermont. Just Ask Chick-Fil-A
Attachments: GPS Letter to Facebook Final.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2015

Gov. Shumlin to Facebook: Think Twice About Messing with Vermont. Just Ask Chick-Fil-A

MONTPELIER – Gov. Peter Shumlin is urging Facebook Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg to call off his company’s corporate lawyers who are bullying a Vermont startup called Designbook.

[According to news reports](#), Facebook is challenging Designbook’s trademark application out of concern that the name is too similar to that of the social media giant.

“I was very concerned to read about Facebook’s unnecessary bullying of a Vermont startup called Designbook. The Vermonters behind this company are the type of people that make me proud to be this state’s Governor. They are young, entrepreneurial, and innovative. Given your background, I am sure you can relate,” Gov. Shumlin wrote to Mr. Zuckerberg.

“The last thing these Vermonters deserve is for a giant corporation to threaten them unnecessarily,” the Governor continued. “We don’t stand for that type of injustice in Vermont. Just ask Chick-fil-A.”

The Governor was referring to [Vermonter Bo Muller-Moore’s recent victory over Chick-Fil-A](#), which had tried to use bullying tactics to get Muller-Moore to abandon his “Eat More Kale” trademark application.

The Governor’s full letter is attached and copied below.

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

I was very concerned to read about Facebook’s unnecessary bullying of a Vermont startup called Designbook. The Vermonters behind this company are the type of people that make me proud to be this state’s Governor. They are young, entrepreneurial, and innovative. Given your background, I am sure you can relate.

The last thing these Vermonters deserve is for a giant corporation to threaten them unnecessarily. We don’t stand for that type of injustice in Vermont. Just ask Chick-fil-A.

I'm sure that the enormous growth and worldwide success of Facebook insulates you from many of the decisions made within the organization. I sincerely hope that is the case here. And I hope you will step in to take action to right this wrong.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor of Vermont

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 2, 2015

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Founder and CEO
Facebook, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

I was very concerned to read about Facebook's unnecessary bullying of a Vermont startup called Designbook. The Vermonters behind this company are the type of people that make me proud to be this state's Governor. They are young, entrepreneurial, and innovative. Given your background, I am sure you can relate.

The last thing these Vermonters deserve is for a giant corporation to threaten them unnecessarily. We don't stand for that type of injustice in Vermont. Just ask Chick-fil-A.

I'm sure that the enormous growth and worldwide success of Facebook insulates you from many of the decisions made within the organization. I sincerely hope that is the case here. And I hope you will step in to take action to right this wrong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin
Governor of Vermont