

Chris Farnitano, MD
324 Shenandoah Dr.
Martinez, CA 94553
January 13, 2013

John Fenoglio, Executive
Mt. Diablo Silverado Council
Boy Scouts of America
800 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Mr. Fenoglio:

I wrote to you in October, 2012 to strongly protest your actions and the actions of the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America in contributing to the denial of the rank of Eagle Scout to Ryan Andresen of Troop 212 in Moraga and his expulsion from the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of his sexual orientation.

I am writing to you again to protest your recent action of refusing to forward his completed Eagle Scout application on to national headquarters after Ryan successfully passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. The scouters who sat on his board reached the correct decision: Ryan completed all his requirements and deserves to be awarded the rank of Eagle. As council executive, you are required to “certify that all procedures, as outlined in the *Guide to Advancement*, have been followed.” Nowhere in the *Guide to Advancement* does it state an Eagle Scout must be heterosexual. Once again, you are supporting an unjust policy instead of supporting one of our scouts.

As I explained in my previous letter, I am an Eagle Scout, scoutmaster for Troop 239 of Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, and the father of two Eagle Scouts and one Life Scout who is working towards Eagle. I shared my first letter to you with the scouts, parents and scouters of my troop. Their response was overwhelmingly in support of my letter and against discrimination within Scouting. I believe in Scouting and I support my troop, but I cannot support this policy nor can I support individuals who refuse to stand up against it. As a result, despite generously supporting the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council financially for many years as part of the Friends of Scouting fundraising drive, I will give no further donations to Friends of Scouting, and I will be encouraging other scout families and scouters to do likewise until the leadership of the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council begins to support our scouts instead of this discriminatory policy that goes against the Scout Law and all that Scouting stands for.

Sincerely,

Chris Farnitano, MD
Scoutmaster, Troop 239
Pleasant Hill, CA