

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Rehoboth desperately needs change

By Anthony "Tony" Coelho - August 12, 2016

I have known Rick Perry since the early 1980s when I was a U.S. congressman from California and Rick represented the California savings and loan industry in D.C., the largest segment of that industry in the country.

As a senior-level presidential appointee to the agency that regulated that industry, Rick's knowledge was invaluable as the industry struggled with an economic crisis and numerous failed financial institutions. Rick was known on Capitol Hill as a straight shooter, who would tell you just like it is, and who would not push a legislative proposal just because one financial institution or a small group wanted it for their own purpose. He was trusted to always tell you the truth.

I have spent a lot of time with Rick over the last several years in Rehoboth. We have talked about how our city is governed, the issues that confront us, and how commissioners waste time chasing solutions to problems that do not exist. We, as taxpayers, bear the cost of that long and unproductive process.

We desperately need change. It's time to add new blood, a fresh perspective, and true financial expertise and leadership to our board of commissioners. That is why I am pleased to endorse Rick Perry for commissioner. We need Rick Perry because he will serve with clarity of purpose, remain focused on the issue at hand, keep his promises to you, and work to make the process more efficient.

Rehoboth faces financial pressures, a still-divided community allowed to fester at the hands of our officials who respond to a small segment of residents and dismiss the concerns and views of the rest of our community. We do not need to re-elect someone who has the same platform she had three years ago because promises were not kept or who supports and votes for ordinances that restrict other property owners while his own properties do not meet the same restrictions and who spearheads an absurd trash ordinance, or commissioners who support the mayor who has threatened to take away nonresident voting rights.

I have been vocal in my opposition to actions of our city officials concerning swimming pools and recent zoning changes which restrict a homeowner's ability to have their own pools. Pools provide a safe haven for Americans with disabilities - young and old - who love coming to our beaches with their families but cannot go into the ocean. My epilepsy prevents me from going into the ocean by myself but, with a pool, I can enjoy being in the water and not worry that I will die if I have a seizure. As the original author and primary sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we need a candidate like Rick Perry who will

protect the rights of the disabled.

Rick Perry is a skilled lawyer and business executive - prepared to provide the citizens of Rehoboth a no-nonsense, logical approach to issues. Rather than telling his clients they could not accomplish their objective, Rick always found a solution working within the law. I am confident that he will take the same pragmatic and intelligent approach to the issues that concern our citizens and find practical solutions.

I know he cares about your rights – including property rights, voting rights, the rights of the disabled, and your right not to be subjected to laws that unreasonably restrict and inconvenience you. I ask you to vote for Rick Perry Aug.t 13 for steady, principled leadership and integrity. Each vote for Rick Perry is a vote for you and for the future of Rehoboth Beach – the community by the sea that we all are proud to call home.

**Anthony "Tony" Coelho**  
**former U. S. congressman and**  
**Rehoboth Beach resident**

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**JoAnn Maslana** · Washington Hospital Center School of Nursing

As a wife whose husband has Parkinson's, how dare people bash The Honorable Tony Coelho? He

and his family have been coming to Rehoboth Beach since 1965 and have done so much for the disabled community. Each of his houses has an elevator, wide doorways and a pool, and wheelchair ramps on request, much more than most of Rehoboth's houses. As Tony mentions above, many Americans with disabilities cannot go into the ocean, so pools are great option. Wish there were more properties like this.

Rehoboth Neighbors United references Mr. Coelho's "large houses" -- insinuating large occupancy limits...do you know they only sleep 12 guests? While Tony does not cram people into his rental homes, his reference in his article to a current commissioner who supports and votes for ordinances that restrict other property owners while his own properties do not meet the same restrictions could be to Stan Mill's "mega-compound" that sleep 26 people. Here's the link to Stan's property advertisement: <http://www.tidewatchrb.com/>. Imagine the parking issues outside that house! Why isn't Rehoboth Neighbors United writing about that? I am pretty sure Stan's properties are far from ADA compliant as vacationers are crammed into those accommodations.

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**Kelley Gillespie** · Vienna, Virginia

Thank you, Mr. Coelho, for sharing your positive comments about [Richard Perry](#). Seems the coordinated negative letter writing campaign against him, particularly in this publication, relies on great amounts of conjecture. I, too, have met Rick several times and applaud him for his intelligence, his level-headed and common sense outlook, and his gentle demeanor. His love of Rehoboth Beach would make him a great asset to the city's current chaotic and beleaguered governing board.

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**Dean Wayne** · Washington, District of Columbia

Kudos to Mr. Coelho for giving a voice to those being crushed by Rehoboth's misdirected policies. Predictably, the groups that seek to divide us (ironically calling themselves "Rehoboth Neighbors United") seek to attack the messenger.

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**Rehoboth Neighbors United**

My question for Mr. Coelho is: given your history of advocacy for the disabled, why didn't you choose to make the two rental houses you built in Rehoboth ADA compliant? That would have been a big help to the multi-generational guests these large houses are likely to get.

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