



NEWS RELEASE

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### **BOYCOTT TARGET FOR CEO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANTI-GLBT CANDIDATES?**

*Most Gay Business Owners Say No But by Narrow Margin*

PHOENIX (August 2, 2010) In a poll released today, most gay (and allied) business owners say they will not boycott Target Corporation for its CEO's support of Anti-GLBT candidate Tom Emmer.

The GLBT community has come out publicly to criticize Target Corp's CEO for donating \$150,000 to help Tom Emmer, a Minnesota GOP gubernatorial candidate who is strongly anti-GLBT. The money went to MN Forward, a group that is running TV ads supporting Emmer. Emmer supports a Christian rock band in Minnesota that travels around the state saying that it's moral and righteous for religious people to kill gays and lesbians.

Target chief executive Gregg Steinhafel defended the donation earlier this week. He pointed out that the Minnesota-based discount retailer remains committed to the gay community, by offering domestic partner benefits and supporting major GLBT events in Minnesota.

Further, it should be noted that Target routinely scores high with GLBT organizations for its gay-friendly working environment.

Today's poll among the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce members revealed that more than 38 percent said they would not boycott the organization, the remaining 62 percent were split between saying they would boycott the retailer or they may but were not sure. Of those surveyed, more than 50 percent said that such action by its CEO should have an impact on how GLBT organizations rank Target for non-discrimination and from a safe working environment standpoint.

"I think its clear that our members understand the implications of those who may be collateral damage in terms of a Boycott, said Tony Felice, Chair of the GPGLCC." Felice believes that although difficult to make the distinction between the action of the CEO and the retail giant, its record on pro-GLBT issues within its organization can't be discounted. "I think what troubles us most though, is that the candidate Steinhafel supports is so controversial," adding that it's one thing to be against gay marriage, its another thing to support those who promote violence against gays and lesbians.

100 Chamber members responded to the survey which was distributed this morning. The results can be viewed by [clicking this link](#), or by visiting the chamber website at [www.gpglcc.org](http://www.gpglcc.org).

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#### About the GPGCLCC

Founded in 1980 The Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has one of the largest and most active memberships in the United States. Comprised of over 490 members, the GPGCLCC enjoys a national reputation for being one of the most successful and fastest growing chambers according to the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The Chambers mission is provide an opportunity for gay & lesbian businesses and their straight allies to form enduring relationships through professional programming, mixers, networking events and by supporting charitable organizations that support the gay community. For more information, please call Tony Felice at 480-567-6890 or visit the Chamber on the Web at [www.GPGCLCC.org](http://www.GPGCLCC.org) to view its mission, goals, and to search its member directory.