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**Statement by Democratic Party Chairman Joseph McNamara, in response to Bell's release
on Lafleur's comments:**

WARWICK, R.I. –"The Republican Party Chairman is mimicking his national party on a local stage with childish name-calling and unfounded allegations. Mr. Lafleur was challenged on the Dan Yorke Show today to offer any direct evidence of intimidation, and he could not. This comes as no surprise since Mr. Lafleur is a former long-time office-holder in North Smithfield, proudly carrying the Republican banner.

"I call on Chairman Bell to stop the overheated political rhetoric and join the rest of the state's leaders in focusing on creating jobs and growing the economy. There is simply too much at stake for Rhode Island's middle class."

*****COVERAGE INVITED*****

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