

Good morning Your Honor,

With my sentencing imminent I write to express my heart with regard to the events of January 6<sup>th</sup> and specifically my actions on that day.

I regret very much the harm done to people and our capitol that day. I neither participated in nor condone any such actions. I am a man of peace and when it was within my power, I intervened to protect the capitol. I was there to commemorate the occasion, to pray for my nation, and to stand for the principle that our government's legitimacy rests on consent of the governed.

I didn't know that approaching the building was forbidden and I didn't know I was obstructing Congress. However, I do regret actually entering the capitol building because there is merit to Mr. Rosen's comments in his closing argument that a person simply being present may contribute to the chaos in a situation like that. I admit that I was present and regret the degree to which my actions contributed toward the harm done that day. However, please know that my heart was, and remains, committed to bringing good to The United States of America.

I have heard that the Justice Department has been asking judges for severe sentences for people in my situation, please consider the following argument as you decide how much weight to give them in your decision. In the United States, we hold it to be self-evident that we are all created equal. This principle combined with the rest laid out in the Declaration of Independence is what united the states – without it, there is no Justice Department. Yet among the exhibits presented as evidence against me there was material from another man's cell phone video and audio which indicates that he was engaged in nearly identical activities to mine – the Justice Department has taken no action against this man. From my perspective it feels like the differences between this man and myself are our politics (he is a left-wing journalist), rather than our actions on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Whatever the reason, the prosecutors in my case are doing violence to the principle that we are all created equal. As such, they are not representing the United States of America and therefore do not have a legitimate claim to influence sentencing in the courts of the United States. Please take some time to consider this line of thinking before deciding whether to give regard to their arguments.

My desire to understand, document, and share what was happening are the things that drove me to do the things which resulted in my conviction at trial in May. I believe the interview I did with LifeSite News the evening of January 6<sup>th</sup> was the only eyewitness interview in the media from someone with a conservative political persuasion regarding those events. I thought it would be a good thing to share a level-headed perspective of what happened in light of all the hysteria that I knew would follow. For some reasons I don't fully understand we weren't able to share this during trial. Please consider mercy in your dealings with me and give consideration to the members of my community who have written you to appeal on my behalf.

I am willing to make restitution for the harm I've caused and submit myself to the court's judgment.

Sincerely,

Leo Kelly