

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

“Hate can have no place in our country. We need to make that clear. Not just by our deeds, but by the words we use.” – U.S. Senator Ben Cardin

Words matter.

Words are the lifeblood of lawyers, critical tools of our trade. We learned in law school to choose our words carefully and wisely. When we wield them well, clients benefit immensely. Conversely, when we do not, we do them a disservice.

And what is the Energy Law Journal but a bunch of words on pages - electronic and paper? We use words carefully (hopefully wisely), and understand how important it is to do so.

The unspeakable horror of innocent Americans slaughtered in places of worship - again - by people with guns who hate and who believe the false, venomous, and destructive babble which litters social media and the Internet, brings into sharp focus the power and danger of words.

It's not just social media. Sadly, it's also a handful of elected leaders who apparently fail to appreciate fully the power and impact of their words. The toxicity of our politics as well as hateful passions are fueled by a maelstrom of unyielding, intemperate, and often hateful words flowing from and across the airwaves and media.

Racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant words simply are a disgrace. They have no place in our country.

I wish I were more optimistic that the spiral of hate will abate, and we will never see again a picture of a rabbi from Pittsburgh and an African Methodist pastor from Charleston embrace, anguished by the death of worshippers gunned down in cold blood by people who hate.

Words also matter in the world of energy law, policy, and regulation. The independence and integrity of our regulators and enforcers is critical. When words flow indicating bias, unwarranted political influence, and the like, confidence in our institutions and the rule of law suffers.

Respectfully,

Bob Fleishman