



COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"where hope lives, love leads, life thrives"

144 North Ninth Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102

Reverend Dr. Gregory J. Edwards - Senior Pastor

To The Peabody Awards Panel,

Thank you for your consideration of Hemal Trivedi and Jonah Markowitz for a Peabody Award for their film Battleground. I'm writing the panel at this time to express my full and unconditional support for their entry.

As a person featured in the film, I watched Battleground on PBS with baited breath and felt it was an incredibly inspiring film that accurately depicted my historic run for Congress, as well as some of the insurmountable challenges and barriers our campaign faced in trying to interrupt the proverbial political status quo.

Trivedi and Markowitz portrayal of the political struggles both within the Lehigh Valley and between various historically divided factions point viewers to the realization that our primary struggle was not against each other (those of us on the outside) but against the political machines that continue to control and even manipulate our respective parties. BATTLEGROUND is an antidote to the media echo chamber effect, which is marked by passion, but often devoid of understanding.

Battleground is an important film with an admirable goal to begin to heal the widening divisions in our nation. It has fostered invaluable conversations amongst friends and relatives on both sides of the aisle. I will continue to lend my support to the film and the filmmakers and will continue to promote the film through my vast network of colleagues, friends and supporters.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this incredible film for the Peabody.

Sincerely,

Reverend Dr. Gregory J. Edwards

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Senior Pastor - Resurrected Life Community Church, United Church of Christ

Former Democratic Candidate for Congress - Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District