



Nancy Dubuc
President and Chief Executive Officer
A+E Networks
235 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017

December 18th, 2013

Dear Ms. Dubuc,

As leaders of the nation's premier civil rights organizations for African Americans and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans, we're writing to express our outrage and deep concern about the recent racist, homophobic, and ill-informed remarks made by Phil Robertson, a cast member on your network's show 'Duck Dynasty.' As you may know, Phil attacked both African Americans and LGBT people in a recent [GQ interview](#) (January 2014) – saying that African Americans were happier under Jim Crow laws, and equating being gay with bestiality and promiscuity.

These remarks go beyond being outlandishly inaccurate and offensive. They are dangerous and revisionist, appealing to those in our society who wish to repeat patterns of discrimination. We urge A+E to immediately denounce and repudiate Robertson's comments. Furthermore, we call on you to see that Phil Robertson apologizes for his vitriolic comments. Surely a brand like A+E does not want to be associated with such racist and homophobic remarks.

We want to be clear why Phil Robertson's remarks are not just dangerous but also inaccurate. Mr. Robertson claims that, from what he saw, African Americans were happier under Jim Crow. What he didn't see were lynching and beatings of black men and women for attempting to vote or simply walking down the street. And his offensive claims about gay people fly in the face of science. In fact, it's important to note that every single leading medical organization in the country has said that there is absolutely nothing wrong with being LGBT – it's not a choice, and to suggest otherwise is dangerous.

We understand that 'Duck Dynasty' is a lucrative show for your network – one that attracts millions of viewers from diverse backgrounds on a weekly basis. That's why it's so critical for you to take immediate action and condemn these offensive remarks. His words show an unbridled lack of respect for African Americans and LGBT people, and the ongoing challenges members of our communities continue to experience on a daily basis.

When a figure from a popular show like 'Duck Dynasty' makes such disparaging remarks about entire communities of people, we cannot allow it to go unnoticed. No doubt there are both African Americans and LGBT people among the millions of viewers of both 'Duck Dynasty' and other programs across A+E's media platform. Those viewers who have demonstrated loyalty to your network deserve to hear that there is absolutely nothing wrong with them, and that Americans won't stand for Phil Robertson's comments. That's why we're so hopeful you will move swiftly to condemn his remarks.

Sincerely yours,

Chad Griffin
President, Human Rights Campaign

Lorraine Miller
Interim President, NAACP