

Op-Ed: Fed nominee Stephen Moore's 'armpit' comment stinks

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Stephen Moore's bid to serve on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve has been nothing short of shambolic — and perfectly fitting for 2019.

A former editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal and a CNN contributor, Moore is the founder of the Club for Economic Growth and a senior fellow with the Heritage Foundation. A statement endorsing his nomination was signed by 100 conservative economists.

It all sounds impressive, but among some of his peers, Moore is the economics version of Wrong Way Corrigan.

In 2012, he masterminded a disastrous income tax cut in Kansas that nearly transformed the state into a third-world outpost.

University of Michigan economics professor Justin Wolfers wrote of Moore that “more than possibly any other economist in modern America, he has a track record of getting the big issues wrong. ... Not just occasionally but time after time.”

Greg Mankiw, head of the White House Council of Economic Advisers during President George W. Bush's administration, **has called for the Senate to reject his nomination.**

“My concern with Stephen is actually not so much what he knows, but the fact that he claimed to know things that weren't so,” George Selgin, the Cato Institute's director of the center for monetary and financial alternatives, **told MarketWatch.**

Moore, who once confessed he's not totally sure how the Fed works, and even called for it to be abolished, nonetheless has the confidence of President Donald Trump — at least, until he doesn't.

At the end of the day, public service rests on character. Moore is an unapologetic misogynist, allegedly bragging about his mistresses in front of his own his kids, and repeatedly calling for women to be banned from men's sporting events.

In 2013, **he was found in contempt of court** for shorting his ex-wife out of \$300,000 in alimony and child support.

In a video from 2014, Moore stated that if one must live in the Midwest, the only acceptable place is Chicago:

“It’s a parochial thing to say, but if you live in the Midwest, where else do you want to live besides Chicago, right? You don’t want to live in Cleveland or Cincinnati, or, you know, these armpits of America. You want to live in Chicago.”

It takes a special talent to simultaneously insult millions of people across a dozen states.

Such snobbery further twists the knife in a part of the country that already feels ignored and betrayed.

Now, maybe you’re shrugging because you live in a nice community with no plans to visit either city, but make no mistake: Moore was laughing at you, too.

It typifies the people who wine and dine in upscale Beltway restaurants that the average Ohioan can’t afford, without so much as a second thought about where their food comes from.

The “armpit” wisecrack has sparked the fury of Sen. Sherrod Brown, a Clevelander. He’s **demanding an apology and a retraction** from Moore, noting that it’s one more reason he’s not qualified to serve on the Fed.

In a letter peeling the hide from Moore, Brown wrote: “You didn’t just insult Cleveland and Cincinnati — you dismissed millions of Americans who work and live in small towns and cities across the industrial heartland, and who have been looked down on and left behind by Washington and Wall Street for decades.

“As a public servant, your job would be to fight for these Americans — something you cannot do that when you don’t know the first thing about the places where they live. How dare you demean them and their work.”

It wasn’t farmers or assembly line workers at Lordstown who broke the economy in 2008. It was wise guys like Moore who got it all utterly and completely wrong, while Midwesterners continue to suffer from the consequences.