



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, we recently voted for a bill to terminate taxpayer financing for presidential election campaigns and national party conventions. We took this vote for a number of reasons, including our firmly-held belief that taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize a presidential campaign financing system that 93% of them reject and that no candidate, including yourself, uses.

Make no mistake, while this system purports to rely on voluntary contributions through a check-off system on tax returns, the money diverted from the 7% of taxpayers who participate is taken away from revenue that could instead pay for other programs. Therefore, that revenue must be replaced from all taxpayers' payments, a result that is in no way "voluntary" for them.

You and other critics of our vote claim that eliminating taxpayer financing for campaigns would expand the influence of special interests and force candidates to put fundraising before voters.

A recent Statement of Administration Policy issued by your office stated that eliminating the taxpayer financing system "would force many candidates into an endless cycle of fundraising at the expense of engagement with voters on the issues, and would place a premium on access to large donor or special interest support, narrowing the field of otherwise worthy candidates."

However, as the first nominee to opt out of the program altogether and raise a record \$750 million, we know that you would never claim that your campaign was unduly influenced by special interests or that you were unable to engage with voters.

To date, not one single candidate has opted to participate in the system for the 2012 election. Yet you continue to tout the program and insist that, despite its failure and unpopularity, it must not be eliminated.

Mr. President, if you mean what you say about the importance of the taxpayer financing system for campaigns, there is only one way to prove it: participate in that system yourself. Here as elsewhere, actions speak much louder than words. And here, your actions flatly contradict your words. If you want to be taken seriously as an advocate for taxpayer financing of political campaigns, the only way to do it is to accept that financing, and the accompanying spending limits, yourself. If instead you believe that not only you but all candidates should raise and spend as much money as contributors will provide, then say so and stop forcing taxpayers to subsidize this failing program.

Sincerely,



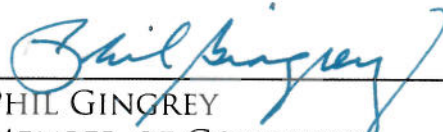
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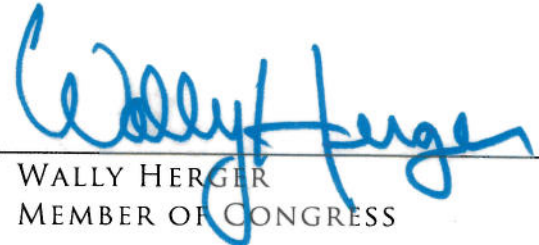
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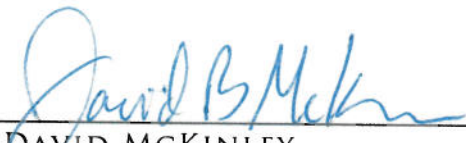
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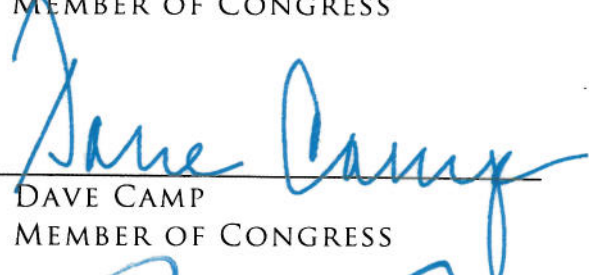
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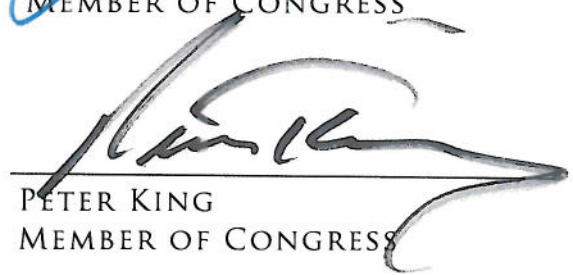
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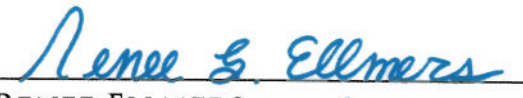
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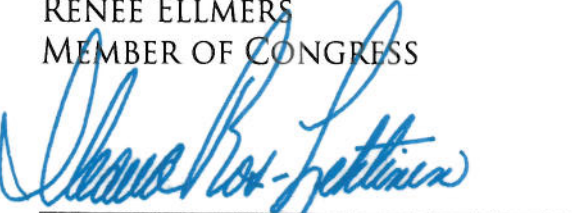
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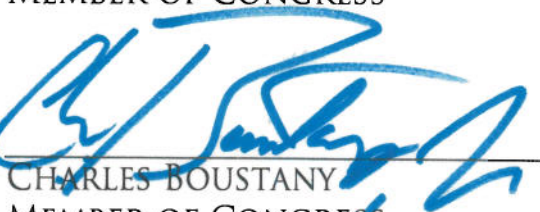

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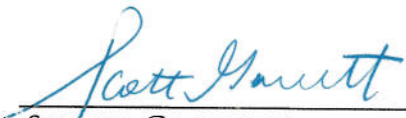

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