

Bob Dole



**NEWS
FROM:**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

STATEMENT OF SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE AT THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATOR, THANK YOU AND GOOD MORNING.

YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN AROUND THE CAMPAIGN-FINANCE REFORM TRACK SO MANY TIMES, IT SEEMS THE DUST NEVER SETTLES. BUT WHAT IS SETTLED IS THAT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY, AND WE MUST PASS REFORM LEGISLATION THIS YEAR.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR REFORM

FROM DAY ONE, SENATE REPUBLICANS HAVE BEEN LEADING THE CHARGE TO MAKE POLITICS MORE COMPETITIVE AND MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. OUR REFORM PLAN WOULD:

- * BAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES OUTRIGHT;
- * BAN THE PRACTICE OF BUNDLING CONTRIBUTIONS;
- * PROHIBIT FRANKED MASS MAILINGS IN AN ELECTION YEAR;
- * RESTRICT ALL SOFT MONEY, NOT JUST PARTY SOFT MONEY;
- * PUT A PREMIUM ON IN-STATE FINANCING BY LOWERING THE OUT-OF-STATE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT TO \$500; AND
- * IMPROVE POLITICAL COMPETITION BY ALLOWING THE PARTIES TO GIVE EARLY SEED MONEY TO VIABLE CHALLENGERS.

REPUBLICANS ARE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THESE REFORM GOALS WITHOUT ASKING THE TAXPAYERS TO CONTRIBUTE A SINGLE DIME.

STILL PLENTY OF COMMON GROUND

BY NOW, WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE MAJOR DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THE TWO PARTIES. DEMOCRATS SUPPORT INFLEXIBLE SPENDING LIMITS. REPUBLICANS VIEW THESE LIMITS AS AN OBSTACLE TO POLITICAL COMPETITION. DEMOCRATS SUPPORT USING TAX DOLLARS TO FINANCE CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS. REPUBLICANS ARGUE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO CUT FEDERAL SPENDING, NOT CREATE AN ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM FOR POLITICIANS. DEMOCRATS SAY THEY WANT TO BAN SOFT MONEY. REPUBLICANS WANT TO BAN SOFT MONEY TOO, BUT WANT TO MAKE SURE THE BAN APPLIES ACROSS-THE-BOARD, COVERING BOTH PARTY AND NON-PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS.

THESE DIFFERENCES ARE REAL, AND CONTINUE TO DIVIDE US. BUT THESE DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE COMMON GROUND SHARED BY BOTH PARTIES.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS IN THE SENATE COULD COME TOGETHER AND PASS A REFORM BILL IN A FEW DAYS...IF WE COULD ONLY MUSTER THE POLITICAL WILL, AND YES, CHECK OUR EGOS AT THE DOOR. THIS BILL COULD RESTRICT PACS, BAN BUNDLING, STOP THE FLOOD OF FRANKED MASS MAILINGS DURING AN ELECTION YEAR, CLAMP DOWN ON SOFT MONEY, PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL BROADCAST DISCOUNT TO MAKE CAMPAIGNS MORE AFFORDABLE, AND PERHAPS INCORPORATE SOME NEW IDEAS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN PUT ON THE TABLE.

THESE REFORMS WOULD ALTER THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. THEY WOULD MAKE POLITICS MORE COMPETITIVE. AND THEY WOULD HELP RESTORE THE CREDIBILITY OF CONGRESS WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

NO ILLUSIONS, BUT HOPEFUL

ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT A BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE CAN BE FASHIONED, I STILL REMAIN HOPEFUL. MY DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUES SHOULD KNOW BY NOW THAT IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO. IF THE DEMOCRATS WANT TO GO IT ALONE, THAT'S FINE WITH ME, BUT THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT REPUBLICANS ARE PREPARED TO STAND BY THEIR PRINCIPLES. THESE PRINCIPLES WERE WELL ARTICULATED IN A RECENT LETTER BY FIVE OF MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES--SENATORS CHAFEE, COHEN, DURENBERGER, JEFFORDS, AND McCAIN. I URGE MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMITTEE TO READ THIS LETTER WITH CARE.

LET'S FACE IT: WHEN IT COMES TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T WANT A PARTISAN DOCUMENT.

(MORE)

THEY WANT A DOCUMENT THEY CAN TRUST--ONE THAT ENJOYS BIPARTISAN,
AND NON-PARTISAN, SUPPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I SEE NO NEED TO RUSH THIS BILL TO THE FLOOR.
ALTHOUGH THE REFORM CLOCK IS TICKING, IT HAS NOT RUN OUT.

THE ADMINISTRATION TOOK MORE THAN THREE MONTHS TO UNVEIL ITS
OWN REFORM PACKAGE, SO I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD RUSH TO ACTION--
IF A SMALL DELAY WILL GIVE US THE TIME TO HAMMER OUT A COMPROMISE
ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. AT THE VERY LEAST, THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE EXPECT US TO SEEK OUT THE COMMON GROUND.

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