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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

HEARSAY: CAMPAIGN BLUNDERS



"I think the biggest mistake was probably not going outside the federal financing so we could have controlled our own message."

—SEN. JOHN KERRY

DESCRIBING THE BIGGEST REGRET FROM HIS UNSUCCESSFUL BID FOR PRESIDENT IN 2004 ON NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS" SUNDAY

May 01, 2006

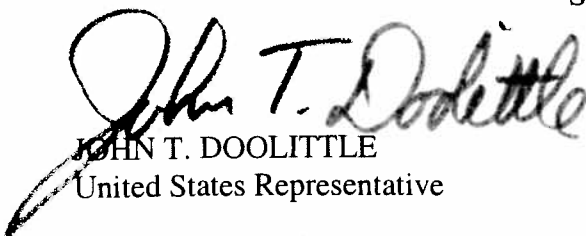
Dear Colleague:


Our system of public financing for presidential elections is broken. Recently, Senator Kerry pointed to his decision to participate in the public financing system as his biggest mistake in the campaign. Unfortunately, candidates are pressured by the so-called reform community to participate in the fund. In Senator Kerry's case, these pressures served against the interest of his candidacy.

The Presidential Election Campaign Fund is an antiquated program that continues to spend taxpayer dollars despite overwhelming opposition from both candidates and taxpayers. In 2004, the percentage of taxpayers who chose the check-off contribution to support the program was only 11%. With the current decline in the rate of participation, it is expected that by 2008 that number will fall to 5%, meaning 95% of taxpayers will choose not to support the system. When so many people do not support a program, why should we continue to fund it?

The Presidential Election Campaign Fund diverts money from the general treasury – money that can be used to aid our soldiers, reduce the deficit or contribute to any of our nation's needs. It is time to put an end to this and eliminate the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. For more information, or to co-sponsor H.R. 3960, which would end this wasteful program please contact Evan Goitein (Rep. Doolittle) at 5-2511 or Sarah Matz (Rep. Neugebauer) at 5-4005.

Sincerely,


JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
United States Representative


RANDY NEUGEBAUER
United States Representative

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