



November 17, 2015

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write today to respectfully encourage you to sign an executive order requiring federal contractors to fully disclose their political spending.

We are members of Issue One's ReFormers Caucus, a new and unique bipartisan group of more than 110 former members of Congress and governors dedicated to reducing money's power in politics. We are committed to the proposition of restoring our democracy. This executive order is a modest first step to completely reforming our current campaign system.

Many of us have first-hand knowledge of working with federal contractors and assure you from our experience that your support for this executive order would help improve disclosure and transparency in government and help restore trust in our government services. The American people must be assured that federal contractors win on the merits of their proposals, not on the size of their contributions.

Following the judicial decision of *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*, unlimited outside spending in presidential elections—including by government contractors who do not have to disclose the identity of their contributors—has increased exponentially. And as more money is being spent, much of it is contributed from secretive sources that do not have to disclose their backers. The Center for Responsive Politics recently found that expenditures reported by these groups rose from just \$6 million in 2004 to \$308 million in the last presidential election—and that's only what can be efficiently tracked under current rules.

As the cost of the 2016 election cycle continues to skyrocket, Americans from across the political spectrum want elected leaders to take action to curb the power of unaccountable money in our political system. A recent *New York Times*/CBS News poll found that 84 percent of Americans, including super majorities of Democrats and Republicans, believe money has too much influence over politics; the same poll found 85 percent in favor of fundamentally changing or completely rebuilding the way we finance campaigns.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this critically important issue.

Respectfully and sincerely,



**Bill Bradley**

Senator (D-NJ, 1979-1997)

**Michael Castle**

Governor (R-DE, 1985-1992);  
Congressman (R-DE, 1993-2011)

**Tom Daschle**

Senator (D-SD, 1987-2005);  
Congressman (D-SD, 1979-1987)

**Dan Glickman**

Secretary of Agriculture (1995-2001);  
Congressman (D-KS, 1977-1995)

**Chuck Hagel**

Secretary of Defense (2013-2015);  
Senator (R-NE, 1997-2009)

**Jon Huntsman**

U.S. Ambassador to China (2009-2011);  
Governor (R-UT, 2005-2009);  
U.S. Ambassador to Singapore (1992-1993)

**J. Bennett Johnston**

Senator (D-LA, 1972-1997)

**Tom Kean**

Governor (R-NJ, 1982-1990);  
Chairman, 9/11 Commission (2002-2004)

**Jim Leach**

Congressman (R-IA, 1977-2007)

**Carl Levin**

Senator (D-MI, 1979-2015)

**Norm Mineta**

Secretary of Transportation (2001- 2006);  
Secretary of Commerce (2000- 2001);  
Congressman (D-CA, 1975- 1995)

**Connie Morella**

Ambassador to OECD (2003-2007);  
Congresswoman (R-MD, 1987-2003)

**Tim Roemer**

U.S. Ambassador to India (2009-2011);  
Member, 9/11 Commission (2002-2004);  
Congressman (D-IN, 1991-2003)

**Alan Simpson**

Senator (R-WY, 1979-1997)

cc Vice President Joseph Biden