

JIM DOUGLAS

March 2, 2009

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

I greatly appreciate your generosity over the years. In these challenging times, I am going to need your continued support to build a framework for economic progress, while resisting calls from those who want to grow government by raising your taxes.

While I've been hard at work crafting a budget that respects taxpayers and protects the most vulnerable Vermonters, some Democrats, like Doug Racine, are more intent on advancing their political careers. Even before I was sworn into my new term, Racine had already announced his plan to run for governor -- TWO YEARS from now!

I guess he just can't wait for a re-match . . . but I am sure Vermonters can wait.

With so much to do, those of us elected to public office need to focus on the job at-hand, not the next election. Vermonters deserve to know that the decisions we make in Montpelier are motivated by what is good for our state, not what is politically easy.

Clare, now is not the time for political posturing, games and self-interest. And now is certainly not the time for officials to plan their next political move. Now is the time to work together to do the job that the people elected us to do.

However, I can't sit back and let the attacks on my record go unanswered. And your support will help me fight back against these political attacks and continue my work to put Vermont on a sustainable path towards growth and prosperity.

Over the years, I've held the line on new gas taxes, payroll taxes, income taxes and others because I know that as the highest-taxed people in the entire country, Vermonters can't afford any new taxes. But even after these proposals have been rejected by the people of our state, some Democrats in the Legislature are still at it -- looking in every pocket for a new tax to raise. Others are even circulating a petition calling for new taxes!

One proposal would add a new income tax charge of 9% -- and not just for those with high incomes. Vermonters making just over \$45,000 would pay more if Democrats get their way. This plan would give Vermont, by far, the highest income tax rates in the nation -- a dubious distinction that hinders our efforts to attract good-paying jobs.

Others want to raise the gas tax by 25% or even 50% . . . raise the capital gains tax . . . add a new tax on soda . . . and the list goes on.

Over, please . . .

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It is going to take all of us working together to hold the Democrat super-majority accountable and help me make sure that Vermonters and Vermont businesses aren't stuck with the bill because the Democrats are unwilling to make hard decisions.

Make no mistake: this is a difficult time for our state and our nation. But it is no time for us to simply look around for another tax to raise. All elected officials must work together to make the tough decisions to bring government in line with the taxpayers' ability to pay . . . and I have put forward a plan to do just that.

Vermonters know that Act 60 is fundamentally broken and beyond repair; it is incomprehensible and threatens to bury us under an ever-increasing burden of property taxes. Under my proposal, we will reduce property taxes this year, bring school spending under control, and begin the process of creating a new education funding system that serves our state better.

Additionally, bringing education spending in line with our other priorities . . . like investing in new jobs, infrastructure, and higher education -- without raising taxes . . . is essential to protecting vulnerable Vermonters.

Unfortunately, special interests tied to the status quo are finding every excuse to resist these important changes. Some Democrats are going out of their way to defend Act 60 and others would rather distort aspects of my plan than work on the solution.

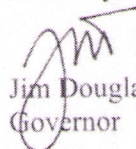
In order for us to set the record straight and bring a needed transformation to a broken system, I am asking you to show your support by making a contribution for one of the amounts suggested on your reply form or for any amount you can afford.

I believe in Vermont. I believe that if we act now to put government on a more sustainable path and continue our investments in growing good jobs and creating a vibrant and diverse economy, we will emerge quickly from this economic crisis positioned to grow. We can build a state where all Vermonters can find a good-paying job . . . and all Vermonters can afford a home of their own . . . and where children can receive a world-class education and compete in a global economy.

I will continue to fight for good jobs and economic opportunity in Vermont by moderating our high tax burden, advocating for commonsense permit reforms, and advancing an Economic Growth Plan that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. Please join me in this fight to protect Vermont, and help us overcome opposition from the Democrat super-majority and the attacks from those already running for governor.

We have a lot to do in the next two years, but with your help I am confident that Vermont will succeed. Thank you, again, for your generous support and friendship.

Sincerely,


Jim Douglas
Governor

PERSONAL REPLY TO GOVERNOR JIM DOUGLAS

Douglas for Governor
Post Office Box 1414
Montpelier, Vermont 05601



Governor, keep holding the line against new taxes!

Vermonters simply can't afford it . . . but the Democrats just don't seem to understand that. What they do understand, however, is that they need to win the Governor's office to fully implement their job-killing agenda. We can't let that happen. Here's my early support in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000 Other \$ _____

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Please make your check payable to: **Douglas for Governor** • Please complete the back of this form.

Please complete the following information:

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Credit Card Contribution

Please charge my contribution of \$ _____ to my credit or debit card.

MasterCard Visa American Express

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Steve Bourgeois, Treasurer

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