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UNITED STATES SENATE

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Americans for Prosperity
James Valvo, Director of Government Affairs
2111 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 350
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear James,

I have reviewed your letter and appreciate you contacting me about this issue. Like you, I share concerns that the Obama Administration and Democratic-controlled House and Senate could use the upcoming lame-duck session to push legislation they could not otherwise get passed.

As I noted in my discussion with the Charleston Tea Party, a conversation I greatly enjoyed and a group I look forward to meeting with again in the near future, I will vote against any efforts by the Obama Administration to pass:

- another wasteful stimulus package (Stimulus II),
- another expanded financial reform bill,
- an expansion of Obamacare such as inclusion of the public option,
- the House-passed Waxman-Markey climate change bill,
- repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell',
- the DREAM Act,
- and comprehensive immigration reform.

These are a small sampling of the issues we need to be aware of and guard against in a lame duck session of Congress.

However, I have some reservations about the pledge you have proposed. I fear the wording of the pledge could prevent me from voting for long-held conservative values and changes in federal policy I support.

In 2001 and 2003, President Bush brought forward a tax relief package designed to reduce the burden on taxpayers. Tax rates were cut across the board allowing working Americans to keep more of what they earned. We eliminated the marriage penalty, the snag in the tax code which forced married couples to pay more in taxes than they would if they filed as individuals. Taxes on dividends and capital gains were reduced, encouraging people to invest for the future. The child tax credit was doubled, and we put the dreaded Death Tax on a path to extinction.

The tax cuts expire at the end of this year and if we don't extend them, Americans will be confronted with the largest increase in personal income taxes since World War II. As a strong supporter of the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, I have long supported their extension and have even offered legislation on the Senate floor to accomplish this objective.

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While I stand ready to vote to extend the Bush tax cuts today, I am not optimistic we will vote on that issue until the lame duck session.

Rest assured I will remain wary and vigilant about what may be in store for the American people, their wallets, and our economy during an upcoming lame duck session of Congress. Thank you again for writing to me on this matter and please let me know if I can be of assistance to you today or in the future.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senator