

# Letter to Republicans

By Drew Jensen

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I don't know who might read this, but I think it is time to speak up, and start trying to bring some sanity back to this nation. I'll say this, Obama has inspired me, he has inspired me by his double talk and ass backward policies to become active and involved. I simply cannot take it anymore; people need a wake up call. Unfortunately, they are going to get it in the form of inflation and more government

I feel the Republican Party has fallen out of favor with the American people for one simple reason. We have mixed our message. We need to hold true to one message, and all other policy decisions and positions need to follow that one principle. Republicans need to stand for Limited Government. It's a simple message, and one that is the key to prosperity and liberty for the American people.

All Republicans can easily see what is going on right now in this country is an abominable advancement of government. Not only have we seen historic increases in spending and regulation, but the government has given billions to undermine a capitalist system to reward failure, and somehow the government has seized control of private corporations. It is pure insanity, but because the Republican Party has not been able to resonate its message, we might soon have nationalized health care. We need to make our message clear, and hammer it home with a vengeance. To do this in my opinion the Republicans need to do two things to become reputable with Independents and Conservative Democrats.

Step one is to admit our faults and errors while we were in power rather than defend them. We need to openly confess and condemn the spending that occurred over the last eight years. It needs to be a simple and clear message that when we were in power, we failed to balance the budget and we were wrong. Despite eight years of prosperity, instead of improving the financial position of the US and maintaining a strong currency, we spent massive amounts of money, and we let the dollar get weak. The message needs to be clear, whether we are at war, or in fiscal crises, our government needs to maintain fiscal responsibility. And we need to hold Republican politicians accountable to the budgets they pass.

We have to realize, we broke a trust, we left our core principal, and we need to regain that trust, and it isn't going to be easy. However, the Obama Administration and the Democrats in congress have made this task extremely doable. If I was a candidate for congress, for a governorship, or for president I would clearly state, "I won't write, vote for, or sign a budget that is not balanced and begins to pay on the debt, no ifs and or buts." I think the country is ripe for the Dave Ramsey debt free approach to government. Instead of "Yes we can" at the podium, I would hang the national debt number (hopefully the podium would be large enough).

The second step is a tougher one, and I know will make me enemies with many in the Party, but I believe this is the most crucial step to the future of the Republican Party and America. As I've stated, our message needs to be limited government. We need to stop being hypocritical when it suits us. Limited government means just that, a smaller government that abides by the constitution with checks and balances, and has only a role

in society and the economy. As of now (albeit this could change by the time anybody may have read this) our society, our economy, is not 'the government'. Our economy and society is controlled by you, the individual and the individual business. If society was a movie and the government was to win an Oscar, it should at best be 'Best Supporting Actor'.

To be a free society, bad things can and do happen. We have to resist the temptation to react to these bad things in a manner in which we blame government for the problem, and look to government to solve the problem. Government cannot and will not solve all (if any) of our problems, including preventing natural business cycles (recessions). If we are going to stand for limited government, we need to accept and embrace that the problems and challenges we face in this society will only be met and solved by individuals. This will resonate. It is somewhat anti-intuitive, yet it is the only logical solution. I will give specific examples of where we have been hypocritical.

The terror attack on 9/11 was a tragic event that did bring to reality the evil that exists in this world, and it should make us angry. However, let's calmly look at the facts. What was considered a 'major intelligence breakdown' was that 19 men boarded four commercial airlines with utility knives. Within hours the terrorists were identified, and the organization with which they represented was known. The CIA knew who each of these individuals were, their prior whereabouts, and knew who they were involved with, however, they weren't able to prevent them from boarding these planes. It is my opinion there was good intelligence; it just wasn't enough to stop the act. While I am a strong CIA supporter and believe intelligence is vital, I think it is a lot to ask of a Federal Government Agency to watch all the people and organizations of the world, and prevent them from doing any harm to Americans. Our answer to prevent this from ever happening again was to create another Federal Agency when simply locking the doors to the cockpit would have sufficed.

The point is, as cold and callous as this may sound, in a free society, if someone is willing to give up his or her life, for whatever deranged cause they may have, they will be able to do harm to others and most likely fatal harm. We saw it at Columbine, we saw it at Virginia Tech, and unfortunately, no matter what government policies are instituted, we will see it again. It is tragic, and it happens in a free society, but not surprisingly, it happens even more in non free societies despite increased government actions and involvement.

I recall departing Midway airport in Chicago not long after 9/11, and there must have been 300 hundred people tightly packed in line waiting to get through security. It seemed to me that someone could have easily slipped a bomb into the crowd before security, kill more people than would be on any one plane, and they could have possibly got away with it to murder another day. In the sake of security we had left ourselves completely vulnerable.

Please don't misread this. I'm not advocating a weak national defense, as I do take this country's sovereignty and protection from foreign enemies and threats extremely important. However, I'm simply pointing out that when tragedy occurred, instead of mourning and rationally looking at what problems occurred, we looked to government and added another layer of bureaucracy to the government. It would have made more sense to simply increase our efforts with the agencies we already had in place. And lock the doors!

Another example is the assault on smoking. I don't smoke, and I don't like coming home from an establishment stinking of smoke. However, if you own a business, I respect the right of that business to decide for itself if it is in its best interests to allow its customers to smoke or not. If non smokers truly do not like to be around smoke, then it would offer a competitive advantage to an establishment to not allow smoking in their establishment. Democracy with your dollar is the most direct form of democracy, and a driver of freedom. Yet, at a local level, has the Republican Party lined up against this form of government expansion into our lives?

I could go on and on for pages and pages with examples of areas where Republicans have gone across the aisle to promote government intrusive protections: seat belts, censorship on TV, helmet laws, zoning and building code laws, and numerous regulations. These are all an expansion of government, and while many represent your moral order, we need to remember that the government has a role, and it is not to dictate a moral order to its citizens.

The topic of Christianity has to be touched upon at this point. Nearly all Republicans are Christian, and many of us, including most of my family, have very strong religious beliefs. While our moral conscience may be taken from the Bible, we cannot bring the Bible into a debate with an opponent that does not recognize its validity. Limited Government is all about Religious Freedom, so preach, be a fisherman of men, give to charity, try and improve the society through strong families and high principles, but don't do it through government. Remember government's role. Remember God has put us on this earth and left us each to our own free will, that can't be said of President Obama.

To win a debate there has to be some platform of agreement, and we need to find that platform and win the argument from there with nothing more than sound logic. You don't need religion to win the argument that abortion is against the constitution. The same principles apply here, you have the right to your freedom, life, and liberties as do all humans, unborn babies just need to be included into that category. That is the argument that Republicans need to win. It is not about God, it is not about choice, it is about a baby being granted its own life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness; which is directly in keeping with the principles of limited government.

It all boils down to a clear message of Limited Government. We have centuries and centuries of evidence to use in this argument. Two Hundred and thirty some years ago our fore fathers understood the dangers of government, and they put a constitution in place that didn't limit our freedoms, rather it limited government. For years those limits have been extended and broadened, and Republicans need to be the Party that stands in protection of those limits. Lets avoid the thought process that is so prevalent in our society; which to illustrate I'll contort one of my favorite Homer Simpson quotes, "Government is the 'cause of', and 'solution to' all of life's problems (Homer said alcohol)." Lets accept that our own actions are the 'cause of' and 'solution to' all of life's problems. .

I recently spent a month in Uganda. This country has the highest levels of poverty despite vast resources, wonderful weather, and a high population of extremely young, motivated, and able citizens. They have had the same administration in place since 1986 and have revised the constitution of that country three times since then so that they could stay in power. They have 18 million citizens in a country about the size of

Oregon, yet I'd be willing to bet they have fewer miles of paved roads in all of Uganda than Lincoln, NE. Surprise, surprise they have a government that is corrupt with 'corrupt politicians (sorry for the oxymoron)'. While some in this country may look at the constitution being written by old men 300 years ago, it is that constitution that has kept 'corrupt politicians' at bay as the US citizens made this country the most prosperous country the world has ever known.

Government is not the solution to our problems. US citizens are, and we need to quit letting our politicians preach and pander to us that we are poor victims that need help. Government is not our religion, politicians are not our preachers, and we are not a congregation who unites together at the altar of 'change' or 'yes we can' at every campaign stop. Politicians and government work for us, not the other way around.