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The Hon. Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 6, 2011

The Hon. John Larson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sen. Durbin and Rep. Larson:

On behalf of more than 225,000 members and activists, Public Citizen enthusiastically applauds your legislation – known as the “Fair Elections Now Act” – that would help take large special interest money out of elections and empower small donors. Especially in light of the extremely troubling Supreme Court decision of *Citizens United v. FEC*, which unleashed secretive and unlimited corporate money into elections, your bold measure to address apparent and actual corruption stemming from special interest money in politics could not come at a better time.

At no time in history has a strong congressional public financing program been so sorely needed – and so demanded by the American public. Poll after poll shows that wide majorities of Americans are stunned with the Court’s decision opening the floodgates of unlimited corporate money in elections. Just as many Americans are infuriated with the primacy of money in elections, as well as all the time and resources officeholders spend cozying up to campaign contributors.

Americans are demanding far more accountability from Congress. One of the best ways to achieve this accountability is to replace big money with public funds and small donations from average Americans. This is precisely what the Fair Elections Now Act would do.

The Fair Elections Now Act is the product of many years of legislative deliberation by your offices. It has already gained editorial support nationwide and is favored by strong majorities of voters across the political spectrum.

Public Citizen is proud to stand firmly behind your newest reform effort.

Sincerely,

David Arkush
Director,
Public Citizen’s Congress Watch division

Craig Holman, Ph.D.
Government Affairs Lobbyist,
Public Citizen