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**Vote YES on CLOTURE and YES on PASSAGE
of the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, S. 3369**

*Congress Should Recognize that Transparency is
Widely Expected by the American Public*

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 16, 2012

Dear Senator:

On behalf of over 225,000 Public Citizen members and activists, we urge you to support full disclosure of money in politics and **vote YES on cloture and YES on passage of the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, S. 3369.**

In the dead of the night tonight, the Senate will vote on this simple yet critical measure which would bring all the secret special interest money that has been flooding our elections out of the shadows.

In the last congressional session Senate Republicans marched in lock-step with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to filibuster the DISCLOSE Act to death. The measure fell short of the 60-vote super majority required to break the filibuster by one vote.

Several Republican senators justified their vote on the grounds that the legislation contained extraneous provisions unrelated to disclosure and that it would change the rules of the game in the middle of the elections. These are no longer considerations. This version of the DISCLOSE Act has been streamlined, removing all extraneous provisions and focusing exclusively on disclosure. It would also take effect only after the 2012 elections.

In *Citizens United v. FEC*, the Supreme Court acknowledged that its decision to allow unlimited corporate and union spending on elections likely would result in more election spending by those entities. But the Court reasoned that disclosure laws would mitigate the potential for perceived or actual corruption resulting from this new spending. Disclosure requirements, Justice Kennedy wrote for the majority, would ensure that “citizens can see whether elected officials are ‘in the pocket of so-called moneyed interests.’”

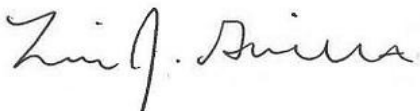
But the disclosure law on which the Court relied was severely weakened by a 2007 FEC regulation. Public Citizen has documented that, although nearly 100 percent of independent groups revealed the donors funding independent expenditures and electioneering communications in the 2004 and 2006 election cycles, donor disclosure by outside groups fell

to about 50 percent in 2010. It is expected to fall dangerously lower in the 2012 elections. [See Public Citizen, *12 Months After: The Effect of Citizens United on Elections and the Integrity of the Legislative Process*, available at: <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=4744>]

Several Republican senators have a long history of supporting transparency when it comes to money in politics. The issue is not whether there is a Republican senator who supports disclosure—there are plenty—but whether any are willing to stand for this principle against the wishes of the party leadership.

Public Citizen appeals to all senators to show independence and leadership. We urge you to end the filibuster and provide the type of full disclosure of independent electioneering that the Supreme Court envisioned and that all Americans deserve.

Respectfully Submitted,



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