

MIKE HUCKABEE
GOVERNOR

Dear Friend,

When I was Governor of Arkansas, we did not have a Republican United States Senator, so I used to ask Lamar Alexander if he would mind moving a little west and being Arkansas' other senator. I needed somebody I could talk to, somebody who is a conservative, and someone who understands - as Ronald Reagan did - how to govern.

We're at a crossroads in our country. Every day I wake up there's another scandal - like the IRS - as they pin the ears of conservatives to the wall. The IRS is slow walking applications and targeting people - even wanting to know what they prayed.

I never thought I'd live to see the day when government got so intrusive it started dictating the content of their prayers and speeches, and the membership rosters of their organizations.

That's why I am writing you today. I've known a lot of conservative Republicans in politics and government but no one I've admire more than Lamar Alexander. For the good of our country, I am writing you to ask that you help him and ensure he is re-elected to the United States Senate.

I am going to tell you a little more about why I support Lamar Alexander and when I am finished, I hope you will do three things for me. I hope you will pray for Lamar, vote for Lamar, and fill out the enclosed envelope and send it back with a \$10 or \$15 or whatever amount you can afford.

You may already know about Lamar Alexander's conservative record, but it's worth repeating.

As governor of Tennessee, Lamar:

- **Defended the right-to-work law to recruit the auto industry, making Tennessee one of the fastest-growing states in family incomes;**
- **Led the effort to build one of the best four-lane highway systems in the country to attract auto manufactures and suppliers, making Tennessee a national leader in the industry. And he did it all with nearly zero road debt;**
- **Defeated the National Education Association and made Tennessee the first state to pay teachers more for teaching well;**
- **Balanced each of the annual state budgets while he was governor, reduced the number of state employees, and at the end of his time in office, left the state with a AAA bond rating and one of the lowest per-capita debt and tax rates in the country.**

Over, please...

Now, as United States Senator, Lamar continues to serve with a common-sense conservative voice.

Based on the most recent ratings, he has earned:

- * An "A" rating from the National Rifle Association;**
- * A 100% score from National Right-to-Life;**
- * A 100% score from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**
- * A 100% score from the National Federation of Independent Business.**

But there is something else about Lamar Alexander's ten years as a United States Senator that is even more important than any conservative scorecard: like Ronald Reagan, Lamar knows how to govern with conservative principles, and he uses this experience to get results.

I'm convinced that part of President Obama's problem is he has never run anything. He was never a governor; never a mayor; to my knowledge, he has never run a hotdog stand on Sixth Avenue in Manhattan. You know, it would help if he had managerial experience, administrative experience, or even understood the dynamics of leadership.

Well, you've got someone in Tennessee serving as your senator who absolutely understands it. Lamar Alexander has led this state to some of the most significant achievements in bringing business and industry. Additionally, he helped your state understand the priority of education and healthcare.

Remember the White House health care summit where the president sat around the table with thirty or forty members of Congress? Remember who the Republicans called on first to say what they thought of Obamacare? It was Lamar Alexander. If you have forgotten about it, visit www.repealobamacaretn.com to watch it.

Lamar told the president Obamacare wouldn't work, and the president said it would. Lamar was right, Obama was wrong. We've got to keep Lamar's voice in the Senate, reminding the president of what works.

You know how much Lamar did as governor for education by making Tennessee the first state to pay teachers more for teaching well. Well, he had an even better idea that when he went to Washington to visit with President Reagan. Lamar proposed that the states take all of the responsibility for schools and, in exchange, give Washington all the responsibility and headaches of Medicaid. President Reagan liked the idea, and even proposed it in a State of Union address. But, of course, Washington wouldn't do it.

Lamar is still trying. He is the lead Republican now on legislation that would fix No Child Left Behind and reverse the trend toward a national school board. He wants to move decisions about whether schools and teachers are succeeding or failing out of Washington and back to states, like Tennessee.

And I absolutely agree with Lamar when he says we should put the teaching of American history and civics back in its rightful place in our schools so that our children can grow up learning what it means to be an American.

There is one other thing Senator Alexander understands and continues to remind President Obama of - our founders created a president and not a king. That's a history lesson the current president seems not to have learned. It is a sad thing when government becomes a tool against its citizens rather than a tool for its citizens. It's time to remind them the power is in the people and not one person.

Lamar told the Senate that President Obama has appointed more czars than the Romanovs. Lamar was the one who challenged the Obama health secretary when she raised private funds to do what Congress had refused to do, and it was Lamar Alexander who forced the president to withdraw two nominees to the National Labor Relations Board because the president used his recess power to appoint them when the Senate was not in recess. As Lamar said, if a president could do that, the Senate could go out to lunch and come back and find that the country had a new Supreme Court Justice.

Lamar is not afraid to stand up to this administration. I'm a pretty enthusiastic outdoorsman, and when a bunch of boys sitting behind desks in Washington, who had probably never fished or skinned a catfish or filleted a bass, wanted to tell the 900,000 Tennesseans with a fishing license where they could and couldn't fish, it was Lamar who came to the rescue. Lamar told them to go fish somewhere else, and leave Tennesseans alone. You didn't need the federal government telling you where you could or couldn't fish.

Now, where people can and can't fish may not seem like a big deal to you, but we should all understand something - a federal government that doesn't have anything better to do than to tell people in the middle of the country where to fish - is a federal government that is way too big and needs somebody to take 'em on and bring 'em back down to size. Lamar continues to prove he is that person.

On a personal note, when I became governor, I went into office in a rather unusual way. I was the lieutenant governor, when the governor of the state was convicted of Whitewater related felonies. Suddenly and unexpectedly, I became governor.

I remembered Lamar has had a little experience in becoming governor under rather adverse circumstance as well. When one of your governors was being shown the door, both the exit to his office and the entrance to the "Big House," it was Lamar who was asked to step in early. I knew Lamar understood what it was like to take the leadership reins of the state in a time of crisis, and lead into a time of prosperity.

So when I was getting sworn into office, I called upon one of the only people in America who understood what I was going through. And it was Lamar Alexander who took the time to be my friend, mentor, and a person whose counsel I could count on. I will never forget it.

And when Lamar ran for president in 2000, I went all over this country on his behalf and I told people, "Let me tell you something, Lamar is a person for whom governing is not simply some ego trip. This is a person who is absolutely serious and committed to good governing and keeping taxes low, and opportunities high."

And a few years later when many Tennesseans supported me for President, I ran on many of the same principles. Unfortunately, the end of the journey didn't turn out quite like I had planned. But I want you to know that I was honored to win the vote in Tennessee, and I've said many times, had Tennessee set the tone for the rest of the country, and if the rest of the country had been as smart as Tennessee, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in today...a mess that Lamar is working hard to fix.

Your senator recognizes that the fight is not over to get rid of Obamacare. It is going to strap this country and chokehold businesses. You may own a business, and it's a shame when you're forced to make decisions based on taxes and healthcare, rather than on good business decisions. When you're sitting there talking to an attorney or an accountant, and paying their hourly rates just to figure out how to navigate through the tax code and Obamacare, that's money you can't spend giving somebody a job - and Obama doesn't understand this.

Over, please...

We're at a point now where a lot of folks think Uncle Sam can fix everything. Well, Uncle Sam can't fix everything, because the fact is Uncle Sam is broke. Our country is \$17 trillion in debt. That's why you've got to have sound, solid, sensible leadership in Washington - the kind that Lamar Alexander has brought to Tennessee over many years of public service.

Now I'm asking you to ensure Tennessee re-elects the man they need to stand up and fight for our shared values. Senator Alexander has done something that not many in Washington have had the courage to do - he's actually introduced legislation that would reduce the growth of entitlement programs over the next 10 years. He is not afraid to tell seniors that Medicare isn't going to be of much use if it is bankrupt and doesn't have money to pay hospital bills in ten years. This is exactly what the Medicare trustees have said will happen if nothing is done to make it solvent.

I don't get to vote in Tennessee. But if I did, I wouldn't hesitate, and I wouldn't listen to any distractions. I would let Lamar's record speak for itself, clearly and loudly, and I'd vote for Lamar. And I need to ask you to make sure you send Lamar back to Washington, to continue standing up for Tennessee and for the rest of the country with strong bedrock conservative principles.

As I stated in the beginning of my letter to you, I am writing you because I hope you will do three things for Lamar Alexander:

First, pray for him. Pray for him to continue the course. It is an important part of our citizenship, to pray for those in power.

Second, vote for him. And don't forget to ask your friends, neighbors, and family to vote for him also.

Third, give generously to his campaign. Go ahead and send \$10, \$25, \$100 or more if you can to help Lamar get his message out across the state.

If we are going to change the direction of this country, we need more conservatives in office who, as Ronald Reagan did, understand how to govern. We have a leader in Senator Lamar Alexander and I hope I can count on you to help keep him in the Senate, where he can not only stand up for Tennessee, but for America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Huckabee", with a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Huckabee