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June 22, 2004

Honorable Tom Daschle
P.O. Box 1656
Sioux Falls, SD 57101

Dear Senator Daschle,

You have often decried the amount of money spent in political campaigns saying in 2002 that "The currency of politics should be ideas, not dollars."

As far back as 1983 you said that "Big money is really, I think, going to be the downfall of the American political system" and it was reported during that same year that you would allow the Republican candidate to set the limit on campaign expenditures and you would abide by it.

More than twenty years later, we have an opportunity to jointly agree to a \$10 million limit on the amount each of our campaigns spends during this two-year election cycle of 2003-2004.

My unprecedented efforts in 2002 to keep third party groups out of South Dakota were met with silence from you and defiance from extremist liberal groups that spent millions of dollars attacking me.

You have finally joined me in calling for outside groups to not run ads in the 2004 South Dakota U.S. Senate race but as you have publicly stated, we do not have direct control of those groups. However, we do have direct control over how much our respective campaigns spend during this two year cycle.

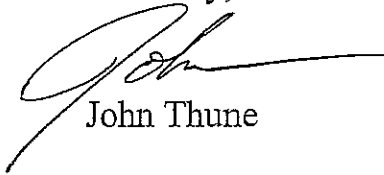
Therefore, I hope you will join me in agreeing to a \$10 million spending limit for the 2004 South Dakota campaign for the United States Senate.

Limiting each campaign to spending a total of \$10 million during 2003-2004 would still make this race the most expensive Senate race in history on a per resident basis. Billionaire Democratic Senator Jon Corzine of New Jersey spent more than \$60 million of his own money representing \$7.79 per resident. A \$10 million spending limit in South Dakota represents \$13.25 per South Dakota resident.

Earlier this year, you indicated you would raise and spend at least \$10 million. When I formally entered the race on January 5, 2004 I indicated we hoped to raise and spend around \$6 million so I am conceding a strong advantage to you with this challenge.

However, I believe it is in the best interests of South Dakota citizens to limit campaign spending to \$10 million. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Thune", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Thune