

February 14th, 2006

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to inform you about an exciting piece of groundbreaking legislation that is making its way through the California State Legislature -- Assembly Bill 583: The California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006. Assemblywoman Loni Hancock (D-East Bay) introduced A.B. 583 in order to address the corrosive influence of money in politics and bring real campaign finance reform to California.

Over \$250 million was spent on initiative campaigns during November's special election – a record amount. The increasing sums of money and influence of “special interests” in campaigns is one of the biggest challenges facing our democratic system. As time spent on fundraising has increased, the public's opinion of government, confidence in elected officials has decreased and voter participation has eroded.

Voter anger with the current system has been fueled by the perception that "everything in Sacramento is for sale," and that major contributors have more access to the Governor, to legislators and more influence over legislation than ordinary citizens do.

The California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2005 addresses this problem head-on. It provides the most substantial and comprehensive solution to the influence of money and “special interests” in politics...public financing of elections.

The California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act is based on the Arizona system, which has been in effect since 2000. Since adopting the Clean Elections Act, both Democrat and Republican candidates in Arizona have chosen to run under the public financing system. Voter turnout has gone up. Less money is spent in campaigns. Most importantly, polls show that public trust and confidence in government's ability to act has increased.

AB 583 is the first public financing bill to pass full house of the State Assembly in the history of the Legislature and will go before the Senate. A.B. 583 can profoundly improve elections in California.

For these reasons, I hope you will join me in supporting this vital legislation.

To get involved and support this legislation and future Clean Money efforts please contact the Office of Assemblywoman Loni Hancock (510) 559-1406 or the California Clean Money Campaign (800)566.3780 www.CAclean.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Supervisor Susan L. Adams