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CONCORDE

December 6, 2004

Bob Elberger
4615 Post Oak Place Drive, Ste. 210
Houston, TX 77027

Dear Mr. Elberger,

People are asking for your money left and right. You probably receive at least one request each day in the mail, and have a stack of solicitation packets on your office desk or kitchen counter.

I know, because I get them too.

So today, I just want to *thank you* for your very generous donation to the Texas Public Policy Foundation. You have so many other causes to choose from, but you have chosen the promotion of free market ideas to Texas policymakers.

Your commitment has enabled us to accomplish so much this year:

- Our 2nd Annual Policy Orientation for the Texas Legislature in January again attracted sell-out, standing-room-only crowds with 63 elected officials in attendance, including Governor Perry and Lt. Governor Dewhurst.
- We produced 27 research reports, including 8 research studies and 5 policy perspectives exploring nearly every facet of public education in anticipation of the Legislature's work in reshaping Texas' system of school finance.
- Over the course of the four-week special session on school finance, we were invited to testify five times, and three additional times immediately prior to the session's start.
- We produced hard-hitting studies on policy areas ranging from transportation and Medicaid, to taxes and water in preparation for the upcoming legislative session.
- We received in excess of \$4.7 million in media coverage this year.
- Our commentaries and press releases have been circulated before more than 21 million newspapers subscribers.
- Our free e-newsletter (Texas Public Policy News) has seen consistent increases in readership.

None of it would have been possible without you.

As you know so well, the Texas Public Policy Foundation is a vehicle for exploring and promoting the timeless and proven ideas and principles of free markets, limited government, private property rights, and individual liberty and responsibility. We have shown that ideas *do* matter.

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Mr. Elberger, because of you, the Foundation has grown from very humble beginnings just 15 years ago to the "official think tank of Texas," as we were recently dubbed by the *Dallas Morning News*.

Do you feel that your money has been well spent?

- Our work on tort reform was considered a pipe-dream in 1989. It became a reality in 2003.
- The Foundation's keen interest in pursuing free market alternatives to government health care programs was roundly criticized in the early 1990s. But now the burden of proof is on those who stand in the way with the passage of historic reforms in 2003 in House Bill 2292, which saved the state over \$1 billion in the last biennium by consolidating government health care agencies and services.
- Many said a state income tax was the inevitable outcome of a special session on school finance. The Foundation stood strongly – seemingly alone – in demonstrating the fallacy of such a move. Today, Texas has no income tax, *and* we can also write-off our sales taxes from our federal taxes!

We are very proud of our success and hope you are proud of your contribution that makes it happen. Enclosed is a brief 12-minute video explaining the Foundation's work and chronicling our history. If you like what you see, please pass your DVD on to a friend who might be interested in promoting liberty in the same way you do.

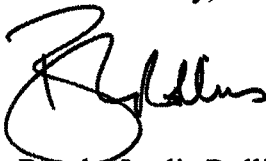
2005 will see even more changes and successes. We'll expand our staff to include three research analysts: One will focus on health care, a second on economic policy, and the third on education.

We'll continue to host bi-monthly, half-day policy events around the state and will begin the year by hosting the 3rd Annual Policy Orientation on Jan. 26 & 27, 2005.

The Foundation has long said we exist to "provide the intellectual ammunition in the battle for a better Texas." Thanks to you, the intellectual arsenal continues to not only grow, but to be more effective.

That growth, fueled by your generous investment in our work, will pay great dividends in liberty and prosperity. Enjoy the video and thank you for being such an important part of the Foundation!

Most sincerely,



Brooke Leslie Rollins
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And with gratitude,




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