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SENATOR JOHN COURSON
RICHLAND AND LEXINGTON COUNTIES

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October 7, 2009

We live in a world of political and economic turmoil. Far too many of our citizens are unemployed, and even more are struggling to make ends meet.

However, those of us who have been working for sound, conservative fiscal policies in state government are making significant gains. We have maintained our Triple A bonding rating – only 7 states are so honored. We also have the lowest per capita debt ratio in the United States. I believe our state's fiscal policy – implemented by strong fiscal conservatives – is primarily responsible.

During my years of service in the South Carolina Senate, I have received the coveted *Friend of the Taxpayer* award more than any member of the General Assembly. I work diligently to represent Palmetto State citizens with integrity and to encourage an economy where businesses and families can flourish.

To continue my work for fiscal restraint, I must now turn to friends who share my conservative values. Competing in a South Carolina Senate campaign is very, very expensive. In 2008, some state senate races exceeded \$1,000,000.

The Senate District that I am honored to represent includes populous areas of Richland and Lexington counties, which dramatically increases the cost of a campaign. When I was first elected, the population of my Senate District was almost half of what it is today, and the cost of postage was 20 cents, compared to the current 44 cents.

The challenge I now face is to build a campaign fund for re-election. I would be grateful for your support. For your convenience, a reply card is enclosed.

Working together, I am confident we can build a better future for South Carolina. Thank you for considering this personal request. With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Courson". The signature is stylized and written over a faint, larger version of the name.

John Courson
South Carolina Senator

Enclosures