



Tuesday, January 29, 2008

To: Maggie Radaige
WREX-TV 13, Rockford

Maggie:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the President's State of the Union Speech last night. I watched the replay as I was chairing our regular Village Board Meeting in Barrington Hills.

Generally, I was uninspired by the President's speech. I was also not surprised to read that my opponent, Don Manzullo, is in complete agreement with President Bush's policies and future plans, as published on his WEB site. I disagree with Don Manzullo, who seems to think that more of the same policy will improve the economy, our dependence on foreign oil, health care, climate change and the environment, and foreign policy - particularly regarding Iraq.

On the economy, it is my opinion that neither my opponent, Don Manzullo, nor President Bush understands the structural problems present within our economy. I agree that rapid response is necessary. However, spending \$140B, sourced from debt and held by foreign debt holders, is not helpful to the economy. I am sure that a family who is struggling will always appreciate the benefit of a few hundred dollars, but it does not help their situation in the very next month. People in Rockford, for example, need good paying jobs. This money would be far better spent if it were invested in our national infrastructure, creating local jobs and purchasing American products. In addition, this type of investment makes our economy more productive. Imagine the impact \$3B in road and transportation upgrades would make to northern Illinois.

Our economy is in trouble because there are not enough quality jobs, and business cannot compete in the global market place, particularly in the 16th District. These high quality manufacturing jobs that add real underlying value left our country because of policies drafted and supported by Don Manzullo under the direction of the President. These policies supported the special interest of corporate management, at the expense of the middle class. The solution is to fundamentally change our trade policy to create a truly level playing field and open global markets to American suppliers for American products made by American workers. We also must make health care truly competitive and affordable for individuals and businesses alike.

I agree that lower taxes help the economy. However, the President and my opponent, Don Manzullo, continue to **raise** taxes by increasing the debt, currently at \$9.2T and increasing at roughly \$800B/year. Don Manzullo, under the direction of President Bush, has overseen the greatest accumulation debt in the entire history of our country. I addressed the debt issue from the very beginning of my campaign and the national security threat it brings to our country. While my opponent and the President do not



call the \$36B/month we pay in interest a tax, it is a tax just the same. It is a tax we pay to foreign debt holders. It is a tax our children and our grand children will all have to pay. It is a tax that results from fiscal irresponsibility and out of control spending overseen by Don Manzullo and the President. The President said last night that he and Don Manzullo want another year of irresponsible fiscal behavior. ***I oppose their strategy.***

The President and Don Manzullo have done nothing in 8 years to help reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect the environment. We are far more dependant today than we were when my opponent took office some 15 years ago. More of the same will not change the direction of our country. It time to reinvest in nuclear-electric power systems and other bio and renewable fuels.

Finally, I was saddened to see the President throw away an opportunity to make great strides in the last year of his Presidency were he should be unencumbered by political forces. This is an opportunity capitalized on by the great Presidents in the last century. The disappointment of President Bush's "State of the Union Address" is a clear message that we need change. That change will only happen when we change those we send to represent us.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my views to you. I would be happy to discuss these issues at your convenience.

Best Regards,

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