



June 1, 2015

RE: Support the Senate Fair Elections Now Act to give a voice to everyday people

Dear Senators,

On behalf of our 2.4 million members and supporters, I write to strongly urge that you support the Fair Elections Now Act championed by Senator Dick Durbin. This bill will reduce the influence of big money and raise the voices of everyday Americans

Right now, our democracy is at risk. Big money campaign donors -- not constituents - are the ones getting the most attention from many of our elected leaders. As you have probably experienced, members of Congress spend upwards of 50 percent of your time fundraising. This means half of your time is spent raising money instead of talking to constituents or developing legislation. This dynamic means our government's priorities are warped out of recognition. That's especially dangerous because so many of those wealthy donors that have the ear of politicians are the big polluters Sierra Club members fight every day to protect our air, our water, our climate, and our communities.

The Fair Elections Now Act breaks the dependence on big money so that Congress is focused on the people's priorities. Congress should be accountable to the people that elected them, not the big money donors funding their campaigns. In short, it takes a giant leap toward putting everyday Americans back in the driver's seat of our government and allows you to spend more time doing what you run for office to do - legislate.

As the nation's oldest and largest environmental organization, with members, supporters, chapters, and organizers in every corner of the country - we not only care about leaving a safe and clean environment for future generations, we also care about raising the voices of Americans in our government. We want to return our government to one that truly is of, by and for the people. The Fair Elections Now Act is a major step forward in that goal.

Washington is awash in big money and it's time we do something about it. I ask that you support the Fair Elections Now Act to reduce the influence of big campaign contributors and put our government back in the hands of ordinary Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Brune". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Brune
Executive Director