

May 24, 2006

Representative Jim Ferrin  
1803 North Heather Drive  
Orem, Utah 84097



Dear Jim:

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to extend an invitation to participate in an issues-based campaign, and rise above the muck-raking that seems to accompany far too many elections.

I'm sure you'll agree that not only is this the right and fair thing to do, but you likely share my feeling that the good people in our district deserve to have candidates conduct themselves in a respectful, honorable way. One needs only to witness the recent shameful attacks on Margaret Dayton to see campaigning that offends all and benefits no one.

No matter how pristine anyone tries to live, "muck" can be found. If people dig deeply into either of our personal and professional lives, they will likely find something to take advantage of.

Last week I was informed by several Legislators that you—or through your supporters—are going to launch an attack concerning a past tax issue that my business experienced in an effort to get me out of the race. Let me assure you, I have no intention of withdrawing. I am sure that you are not fully aware of the facts and resolution of this matter.

My business employed a bookkeeper to handle the finances a number of years ago. It eventually became apparent that this employee was mismanaging accounts and funds and was terminated. Two years after terminating this employee, I began to receive notices that tax payments submitted by this employee were inaccurate.

I attempted to resolve this matter myself, however, the complicated nature of this matter required assistance to arrive at a true and accurate dollar amount owed. Public record does not accurately reflect the proper amount. I retained Senator John Valentine's law firm of Howard, Lewis, Peterson to assist me in properly resolving this issue. We have negotiated and reached an agreement on the accurate amount due. The issue has been resolved and the accurate amount owed is being paid to the IRS. Upon completion of our settlement the liens will be removed.

You can see how misguided individuals could use select bits and pieces of this information against me. Although this circumstance was difficult for me personally and professionally, it was thoroughly solvable. I feel very comfortable assuring any constituent that prior to this situation I paid my taxes in full; and upon this employee's termination my tax obligations have been met in full. I am proud of the fact that I have stepped up to the plate and properly resolved this issue.

Again, I would like to extend an invitation to keep our public communications civil, and to focus on campaign issues only. I would hate to bring Senator Valentine into the arena to make clarifications on this matter. We both have much to offer the district—it would be disappointing to see personal attacks, manipulated information, and inappropriate innuendo cloud this race. I hope you will join with me in rising above the muck.

I would also like to extend an invitation to meet and discuss a plan to keep this campaign positive. My intent is that we agree to make a joint public announcement pledging to the voter's our commitment to keep this a positive, issues-based campaign. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Stephen Sandstrom