

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 16, 2016

Mr. Christopher B. Julian
Ararat, Virginia

Dear Christopher:

Thank you for writing. As President, I am committed to making Washington work better and to rebuilding the trust of the people who sent us here. Democracy breaks down when citizens feel that their voices don't matter or that the system is rigged in favor of the rich, the powerful, or some narrow interest. I will keep pushing for meaningful reforms that facilitate a better politics that reflects the best of America and our people, and I want you to know I hear you.

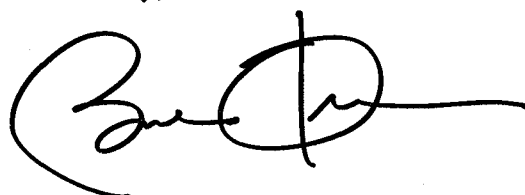
Both parties in Congress need to come together to solve our country's problems and forge a Nation where everybody who works hard and acts responsibly can get ahead. Because all lawmakers were elected to serve the American people and look out for their interests—not our own—I was proud to sign a law that makes it illegal for Members of Congress to use nonpublic information to get an advantage in the market. However, there's more we can do to close the deficit of trust and limit the corrosive influence of money in politics.

We should prevent elected officials from owning stocks in industries they have the power to impact, and we should make sure people who bundle campaign contributions for Congress can't lobby Congress. We have to end the practice of drawing our congressional districts so that politicians pick their voters and not the other way around. And a handful of families and hidden interests shouldn't bankroll our elections. If our existing approach to campaign finance can't pass muster in the courts, we need to work together to find a real solution.

We need to protect a Government of, by, and for the people that serves ordinary Americans and ensures their voices aren't drowned out by millions of dollars in secret, special interest advertising. If we neglect to act, those with money and power will gain greater control over the decisions that could send a young soldier to war, allow another economic disaster, or roll back the equal rights and voting rights that Americans throughout history have fought, and even died, to secure.

Again, thank you for your message. I am looking for every opportunity to work with Congress to address the important issues facing our country and to expand opportunity for more families. When Congress is not willing to compromise, I'm going to act—I will take steps to make Government work better, to deliver better services, and to advance a broad-based growth agenda that will lift up the lives of generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written over a horizontal line.

THE WHITE HOUSE
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