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October 11, 2007

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Dear Assemblyman/Councilman Johnson:

I read with great interest the plan you and your colleagues announced on Tuesday to "clean up New Jersey." While I find some of your proposals interesting, I cannot help but wonder why it is only after 5 ½ years in the legislature that you have chosen to put forward this plan. Further, I have noticed some stark contrasts between the concepts laid out by you and your running mates and the records you all seem so eager to leave behind.

While you have indicated a desire to reduce the influence of special interests' in government your running mate, Senator Weinberg, seems to have no problem accepting thousands of dollars from pharmaceutical companies, insurance corporations, healthcare PACs, lobbyists, Enron, big tobacco companies and other entities under her purview as a member of the Health Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee and the former Chairwoman of the Assembly Health Committee.

Additionally, while you have questioned the cost of legal expenses incurred by various governmental agencies, you have curiously omitted the millions of dollars of fees paid to DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Wisler, the law firm where Frank Huttie, III, the husband of your other running mate, Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie, is presently a partner. According to the Election Law Enforcement Commission, in 2006 alone, Frank Huttie's firm received \$12,022,290.25 in government contracts while making \$190,486.00 in political contributions.

Finally, you have stated your belief that in order for the State's legislature to be completely free of conflicting loyalties, that dual office holding be eliminated. Therefore, in the spirit of your proposal to eliminate dual office holding, I am calling on you to resign from one of your two elected positions. Please advise as to which office you will be vacating so we can plan the appropriate succession process.

Very truly yours,


JOSEPH A. FERRIERO
Chairman

JAF/mf

cc: Sen. Loretta Weinberg
Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie