

COALITION LETTER CALLING ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO TAKE THE OATH OF PRESIDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY

When taking the oath of office, elected officials assume a solemn duty as stewards of public resources. The public must trust that its government will spend taxpayer dollars in a way that is responsible, efficient and, above all, open to the light of day. Some unfortunate events in recent years have eroded this public trust. As a candidate for the Presidency of the United States, you are in a unique position to rebuild that trust.

We call upon you to accept and sign the Oath of Presidential Transparency.

The Oath of Presidential Transparency makes two commitments to the American public. First, the Oath of Presidential Transparency commits you to being THE most transparent Administration in American history -- a lofty, laudable, over-arching goal. This oath signals that whether it's earmarks, directives, or ongoing management of taxpayer expenditures, the goal of transparency will be evident throughout all policy making aspects of your Administration.

Second, the Oath of Presidential Transparency specifically commits your Administration to full and robust implementation of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFAT Act) of 2006.

This historic legislation brought together individuals from across the ideological divide to make the federal government immensely more transparent and accountable as to the expenditure of taxpayer resources. For the first time in our history, taxpayers will soon -- if this legislation is implemented fully and comprehensively -- be able to easily learn about and more knowledgeably participate in the national dialogue on the expenditure of their monies and the administration of their government.

Specifically, the Oath of Presidential Transparency commits each candidate to issue an Executive Order within thirty days of the start of the new Administration directing all members of the Executive Branch to join the President in the timely implementation of the letter and spirit of the FFAT Act.

Our country is at a crossroads. The question is no longer "right track -- wrong track." The new Administration must get our country "Back on Track," and a strong transparency commitment will do much to restore confidence in our nation's leader and the ongoing work of his or her -- indeed, OUR -- government.

We look forward to working with you to make this a reality and to restore the public's faith in its government.

Signers as of 7-9-07: Reason Foundation, National Taxpayers Union, FreedomWorks, Research Accountability Project, Public Interest Institute of Iowa, Mackinac Center for Public Policy of Michigan, Americans for Tax Reform, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Rio Grande Foundation of New Mexico, Citizens Against Government Waste

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS COALITION AND SIGN THE ABOVE LETTER PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LOGO TO AMANDA HYDRO AT AMANDA.HYDRO@REASON.ORG BY THURSDAY JULY 12TH.

**Oath of Presidential Transparency for
Open, Transparent, and Accountable Government**

I, _____, candidate for President of the United States, pledge to the American Public that, if elected President of the United States, my administration will be fully and robustly committed to open, transparent, and accountable government principles.

Effective management, accountability, transparency, and disclosure of taxpayer-expended resources by federal agencies are of the utmost importance to maintain the trust of the American people. The paramount goal is effective and efficient delivery of critical government programs to the American people. Results-oriented management of federal agencies and taxpayer resources must be aggressively pursued and must provide maximum value for the public good.

Within 30 days of ascension to the Presidency, I will execute an Executive Order ensuring timely implementation of, and administrative commitment to, the letter and spirit of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency (FFAT) Act of 2006 (PL# 109-282, 120 Stat. 1186).

Signature

Date