

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 14, 2008

Dear Friend:

Thank you for the kind gift you sent Senator Obama. I handle these matters on his behalf.

As much as the Senator appreciates your thoughtfulness, he has instituted a "no-gift" policy for his office, and I am therefore returning your gift. Senator Obama thinks the public should have confidence that their elected officials are solely focused on representing their interests in Congress. In light of the recent abuses of the congressional gift rule by a few members of Congress and the lobbying community, Senator Obama wants to lead by example. Instituting a clear cut, no-gift policy should eliminate any appearance of an individual or organization attempting to influence him or his staff through any means other than the power of their policy arguments.

I hope you understand the reasoning behind this decision. Although we cannot accept this gift, please continue to stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Jason Nerad
Staff Assistant

Enclosure