



May 6, 2010

Senator Robert F. Bennett
431 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennett:

In 1992, while running to represent the people of Utah in the United States Senate, you pledged to serve no more than two terms. Twelve years later, you indicated that three terms was enough. Now, you are running for a fourth term in office, which leads to the obvious question, "will almost a quarter of a century be enough?"

Given that you have not kept your word to voluntarily end your Senate service in the past, what assurances do the people of Utah have that you will not be asking for their votes again in 2016 trying to reach thirty years in office?

Term limits is overwhelmingly supported by the public because they know, as the founding fathers did, that lifetime election to office does not serve the nation well. You may not be aware that between 1789 and 1889, the average tenure in the House of Representatives was 2.14 terms, or less than five years. Since the 1950s, the odds of an incumbent losing an election for his or her own seat is less than 10%, creating a semi-permanent Congress.

Back in 1992, when you offered your first term limits pledge to only stay in the Senate for two terms, you seemed to understand the importance of bringing fresh ideas and leaders into the system so that the entrenched powers never got too comfortable. Our current Congress is Exhibit A in the case against institutionalized power and in favor of imposing strict legal term limits rather than relying on the good word of those running for office.

So, the question that many Utah voters are asking today is why didn't you keep your promise to retire after two or even three terms in office?

At some point, enough is enough, and it becomes time for fresh blood to tackle the problems of our nation from a new perspective that is not weighted down by the “necessary” compromises in DC. At least, that is what voters were led to believe when you promised back in 1992 that you would not serve past 2004. I will be interested to hear how you explain this broken promise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Blumel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Philip Blumel