



To the Members of the South Dakota Legislature:

As I am sure you are aware, the South Dakota State Senate on Monday voted 21-14 to extend their terms of office from two years to four years, effectively expanding term limits from 8 years to 12 years. This is particularly egregious, considering that South Dakota voters in 2008 voted to keep term limits with 76 percent of the vote.

The Senate has failed your constituents in one of the most basic tests of power. As a body, the Senate has demonstrated beyond any doubt that they do not respect the will of the people at all. This act seriously calls into question your credibility and undermines the people's trust that this is a truly representative body.

At a time when South Dakotans, and all Americans, are concerned about real job security, the members of the Senate are sending one message: that you are only concerned about your own job security. Instead of acting to the benefit of South Dakota residents, the Senate has acted in its own selfish interests. This act does great harm to the very foundations of government.

On Monday, February 9th, while the Senate was busy extending its own terms, Pulse Opinion Research did a survey of 500 likely voters, finding that 63 percent would be angry if you as legislators tried to extend term limits so you could stay in office longer. 68 percent said they would vote no on the very amendment to the constitution you placed on the ballot. And 57 percent said it would make them less likely to vote for you.

The South Dakota State House still has an opportunity to stand with the people of South Dakota in opposing any extension of term limits. We urge you to oppose SJR 3 in the strongest possible terms.

The Senate has once again placed their own lust for power above the will of the people of South Dakota. The members of the House must not fail in the same test of power. The people are watching.

Sincerely,

Philip Blumel
President
U.S. Term Limits