

**COMMON CAUSE
PUBLIC CITIZEN
U.S. PIRG**

September 17, 2008

Senator Barack Obama
Obama for America
P.O. Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Senator Obama:

We appreciate your past leadership in working to diminish the role of big money and special interests in American politics. We also are pleased that you are making government reform a key issue in your presidential campaign.

We congratulate you on winning the Democratic nomination for president. Should you win the general election, we strongly urge you to make public financing of presidential and congressional campaigns a top legislative priority for your administration. However, victory would also allow you to adopt several meaningful policies without the need for legislation. Today, we are asking you to endorse four policies that we believe support your vow to curtail special interests' political contributions and the access that so often follows. Specifically, we are asking you to promise that if elected president you will:

- Instruct your party not to allow soft money contributions (corporate, union or individual gifts beyond campaign contribution limits) to host committees or any other committees to be used for 2012 convention activities;
- Not permit your inauguration committee to accept soft money;
- Not appoint fundraisers or major contributors to ambassadorships, transition team positions, or other major posts in your administration except for those rare individuals who have demonstrated particular qualifications for the job in question; and
- Not accept contributions for a presidential library, foundation or other private entity until after your presidency ends.

We are sending a similar letter to Senator McCain and will be sending both letters to the moderators of the presidential debates. We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely Yours,

Bob Edgar, President

Common Cause

Joan Claybrook, President
Public Citizen

David Arkush, Director
Public Citizen's Congress Watch Division

Gary Kalman, Director of Federal Legislative Office
U.S. PIRG