

VOTE NO

A Letter of Protest

All indications suggest that, by no fault of our own, the Democrats are poised to take Congress on Tuesday. We do not deserve it.



STEPHEN J. WUKELA

With rare exception the national leaders of both parties have abandoned the interests of their constituents.

For example, the Republican Party claims to represent the conservative ideals of morality, fiscal responsibility, and individual liberty. However, they have led the Federal Government's intrusion into our lives, from our phone calls to our death bed decisions. They have turned record surpluses into record deficits. They have invited corruption and ignored pedophilia inside the Capitol walls. Worst of all, they have led us into the quagmire of a bloody civil war in Iraq and intend to stay the course.

The Democrats are no better. We are pledged to the cause of the working class. Instead, our leadership has been cowed and intimidated into submitting to the Republicans' agenda; leaving their constituents increasingly unemployed, uneducated, and uninsured. Moreover, the Democratic Party condemns the Republicans for the war in Iraq but, when it mattered, its leaders were spineless accomplices to the war.

Locally, our leaders have also abandoned the interests of their constituents. Take, for example, the One Cent Sales Tax increase proposed for the expansion of six Florence roads. We have already paid our State taxes with the expectation and understanding that our leadership in Columbia would spend our money to make urgently needed repairs and improvements to our roads.

Nevertheless, nearly every office holder and candidate of both parties has, in recent months, obediently paraded out in support of this tax hike.

In spite of their pledge to be fiscally responsible and to lower taxes, no Republican leader has asked why we should be taxed twice to pay for our roads. Nor have they questioned why we should build road expansions before repairing the roads we have.

No Democratic leader has objected to cutting taxes on the rich while raising the sales tax, which most burdens those least able to afford it.

The tax supporters, including this newspaper, contend that the \$148 Million raised through the tax increase will be supplemented with a "windfall" of \$250 Million (of our State tax dollars) from the State Infrastructure Fund; along with \$3 Million from the Federal Government for a total of \$401 Million. However, no one has mentioned that this total leaves us \$208 Million short of the \$609 Million cost projected for the six projects. Nor has any one asked whether this shortfall will result in additional tax increases in the future.

Conveniently, no one from either party has disclosed the names of the wealthy interests that have funded this expensive tax increase campaign on television, in this newspaper, and elsewhere. Nor have they revealed how much those interests stand to gain from the spending.

Instead, our leadership holds our desperate need for roads hostage for the price of repeated and disproportionate taxes on the working class.

**Join me in protest of our leadership;
vote "NO" to the one cent sales tax increase.**

Sincerely,



STEPHEN J. WUKELA