



Because California Needs Reform

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Steven Poizner
Insurance Commissioner
c/o Steve Poizner for Governor Exploratory Committee
520 Capitol Mall, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Poizner,

Since the budget was passed, you have gone around the state criticizing it and the role six Republicans played in its passage. I am very disappointed that you would let the state fall into financial ruin just to win a political campaign.

Your recent statements condemning Propositions 1A-1F are very frustrating. During the budget debate, which lasted over 100 days, I heard from thousands of Californians who took the time to give me their input on the state budget. But I *never* heard from you.

Your silence during the budget negotiations and your vague claims about “solutions” to solving our state budget crisis demonstrate that you have no desire to govern, just to complain. You were given the perfect opportunity to work with the Legislature in finding ways to fix our state budget, including cutting programs and reducing government spending.

But instead of helping the state back from the brink of insolvency, you sat in a room with your advisors writing a speech criticizing the very actions you refused to participate in. The first time I heard from you about your vague “solutions” to the budget was during a speech you made at Republican Convention, two days *after* the budget was passed.

Mr. Poizner, you had your chance to prove yourself a leader and as someone who could govern this state. But you chose to do what many other hyper-partisans in Sacramento do—you chose criticizing over governing.

Governing means making the tough choices and doing what is right, not what is popular. Governing means making government work, not pushing us over the precipice into financial ruin.

I have read the letter you have written to the Chairman of the California Republican Party urging him to oppose the measures on the ballot in May. And just like in February, you would rather stand on principle than for solutions.

What, Mr. Poizner, are your solutions to this budget crisis? I don't mean the platitudes you espouse when you are securely behind your podium. I want to know what, where, and how much you would cut from our state budget?

Where is this elusive "government excess" you speak of? Is it in the six-figure salary you take, even though you are a multi-millionaire? Is it in the salary increase you took in 2007, when the state was in a multi-billion dollar deficit? Maybe I would take your political posturing a bit more seriously if you actually practice what you preach.

If you really believe that these ballot initiatives aren't the solution to our budget crisis, what do you plan to do if they fail? Will you put out a proposal to solve the multi-billion dollar deficit you will help create?

Or do you just plan on standing behind a podium giving political speeches criticizing the very state you wish to govern?

Your behavior and actions have proven to me that you are not interested in governing. You cannot be governor if you refuse to govern. You offer only problems, not solutions.

This state is in need of true leadership and real reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abel Maldonado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ABEL MALDONADO