

OCPA FaxLine Report

a public policy information service for members of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc.

Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

As Americans make the final mad dash to purchase gifts for those last few people on their Christmas shopping list, I thought I'd share my own wish list with the readers of the *FaxLine Report*. These are ten things I'd like to have this year.

- 1) I would like to see the tax code rewritten so we could either have a flat tax or a national sales tax. For the environmental folks: just think of all the trees we could save if the millions of pages of the tax code were eliminated.
- 2) I would like to keep my present health insurance. If Congress decides that we can't do that any longer, then every U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative should share in this new socialized medicine "Christmas gift" along with the rest of us.
- 3) I would like to see America become truly energy independent. Pres. Jimmy Carter told us that was his goal when he established the Department of Energy back in 1977. Energy independence hasn't grown but that Department sure has.
- 4) I would like to know that our first responders (i.e., police, fire, EMS) always have the latest equipment and best trained personnel possible when I, or any of my loved ones, call 911. These people provide a valuable safety net for all of us.
- 5) I would like the same freedom to choose where we live and worship extended to all families in regards to where they can send their children to school.
- 6) I would like to see true freedom of speech. It would be nice to hear people praying again in schools, football stadiums and commencement ceremonies.
- 7) I'd like the Supreme Court to reconsider some of their more controversial decisions with an eye on what the framers of the Constitution really meant – in other words, scrutinize cases through a lens known as "originalism."
- 8) I would like to see the federal government stop spending money that future generations will have to pay back so that my grandchildren won't think we were too dumb to understand basic economics or . . . *well . . . too dumb to understand basic economics!*
- 9) I would like to see the Post Office become privatized, so that I could get my mail back from all my very kind and long-suffering neighbors for the last time.
- 10) I would like to see our leaders back up our military overseas without lengthy deliberations so that the morale of our brave men and women in uniform would never be a casualty and so they could get the job done and get home.

Now I know you should never expect to get everything on your wish list. But if just one of these ten wishes could be waiting for me under my tree this year, I would appreciate it. No doubt some of you would appreciate similar gifts. *Merry Christmas!*

Until next time . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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