

December 8, 2014

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the federal government and the Obama Administration. I appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns.

As indicated by the irresponsible spending and bureaucratic overreach we have witnessed over the past several years, it is clear that the federal government under the leadership of President Obama is out of touch with the priorities of many Americans.

The current Administration has empowered dozens of unconfirmed and unaccountable policy “czars” and enabled federal bureaucrats to seize more and more control over our lives, our liberties and our economy. They have repeatedly threatened to raise taxes. They have actively tried to undermine the Second Amendment and advanced an immigration policy that would do precious little to address the underlying problem of illegal entry. They sent our armed forces to Libya without the consent of the Congress, and have advocated for yet another war in Syria.

We have also witnessed several troubling instances of misdirection and misrepresentation of facts on the part of senior Administration officials. These numerous scandals – the improper targeting of certain conservative groups by the Internal Revenue Service, the failed government-run gun trading operation known as “Fast and Furious,” the subpoena of journalists’ phone records by the Department of Justice, the unconstitutional gathering of electronic communications by the National Security Agency, and the misleading of the American public as to the true nature of the attack on our diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya – deserve much more scrutiny than they have yet received.

Last but not least, there is also the matter of the tactics employed by President Obama during his prolonged effort to sell his “Obamacare” health insurance reforms (P.L. 111-148) to the American public. We now know that his oft-repeated promise about Obamacare – “If you like your plan, you can keep you plan” – has been broken, and it is becoming increasingly clear that the President knew full well that this was a promise that he would never be able to keep even as he was making it. Worse, since Obamacare's passage, the President and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius have simply changed the law whenever it suits them, by delaying certain provisions or granting special exemptions to favored groups.

I believe that these episodes are symptoms of a much more fundamental problem that we face as a nation: an arrogant federal government that has simply grown too large, too invasive, too distant from people, and utterly adrift from its Constitutional moorings. As I have often said, Big Government is *not* your friend. It is impossible to trust a government that does not respect the Constitution, that does not cooperate fully with Congressional oversight, and that goes to such great lengths to keep the public in the dark. President Obama entered office with a pledge to lead the most transparent Administration in history; over the past several years, it has been anything but.

I am actively exploring all of the options available to me with regard to spearheading a broad-based effort to remedy some of the excesses that have recently come to light and, most recently, I introduced S. 2062, the Constitutional Check and Balance Act, a bill which would authorize members of Congress to bring a legal challenge in response to a written statement made by the President – or any other executive branch official – directing that branch to *not* enforce a provision of federal law. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will soon join me in reasserting our rightful role as a coequal branch of government.

However, we must not become so discouraged with the problems of the present that we simply give up on shaping a better future. At my swearing-in as a United States Senator, I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, and I take that responsibility very seriously. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; rest assured that as long as I am in office, I will continue to vigorously defend the rights of all Americans and I will fight to restore the limits placed on the federal government by the Constitution.

Once more, thank you for sharing your thoughts. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the United States Senate. Feel free to visit my website for additional information on my work and about my approach to the challenges facing our nation at: www.paul.senate.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rand Paul, MD
United States Senator