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February 19, 2004

Mr. Scott Peterman, President
Upstate Citizens for Equality, Inc.
P.O. Box 65
Wampsville, N.Y. 13163

Dear Mr. Peterman,

I am in receipt of your recent correspondence expressing great and growing concern with my position relative to not believing that the calling for the impeachment of the Governor is necessarily a good idea or would accomplish what our ultimate goal is - namely, to collect the taxes on sales to non-Indians at Indian owned businesses.

I have to be honest in telling you that I was absolutely dismayed by the tone of your letter as I have been an ardent supporter of collecting these sales and excise taxes. It was, in large part, because of my persistence that the 2003-04 budget included provisions providing the Governor with a specific mandate to collect the taxes on sales to non-Indians. Now, I am leading the charge in the Assembly to ensure that the legislature does not delay the implementation of the collection of these taxes at tribal businesses.

More than that, I would remind you that when others were calling the UCE a "hate group" I defended you to people locally and I certainly defended you to my colleagues in Albany. A friend is defined as a "supporter or sympathizer" and I have been just that to UCE as I have worked diligently on your behalf for the collection of these taxes and on other issues. To that end, my conscience is clean and whether you choose to support me or not in this or any election is clearly your own prerogative.

In ending, I would hope that in addition to providing me with your vitriolic language and letter that you have also contacted your other local representatives to question and chastise them as well. But, nonetheless, the reality is that while you may be getting free press for calling for the impeachment of the Governor you are also jeopardizing any chance you have for appearing as a legitimate and sensible organization.

Sincerely,

William Magee
Assemblyman 111th District

WM:tw