

Public Service:

If I thought my opinions would change anyone's mind I would have written this article before Election Day '06. I don't. So I didn't.

When this piece is published the numbers will be tallied and the results final. So I clearly don't know what will happen, who will represent us or what the national mood will be a day or two after we vote. I am not writing to influence the vote I am writing to make a plea to the winners, whoever they are.

Congratulations. You worked hard. The campaign was long and you had to let the rest of your life go for a while. Thank you for standing up. It's not easy, even for the "shoe ins".

When you take your seat with the Body that you were elected to would you please, for all of us, take a breath, get focused and spend your energy on what people need from you.

We need you to pay attention to the physical, real world, daily challenges that face every State. We don't need you to concern yourself with our morals, our marriages or our souls. Take care of your own. We will take care of our own.

We need you to pay attention to finances. By that I mean taxes, budgets, revenues, spending, earmarking, campaign funding, set asides and pork. Tell us why we need to spend every time we spend. Tell us why it helps. Tell us before you pass the Bill.

We need you to pay attention to the land we stand on. By that I mean private property rights and the public wellbeing, the long term effects of what we dig, burn, process, dispose of, hoard, waste and genetically engineer. Tell us why each and every wound to the earth is necessary. Tell us why it helps. Tell us before you pass the Bill.

We need you to pay attention to whom you let into your office, into your confidence, into your judgments and into your votes. There is enormous mistrust out here about the way public service is conducted. You really do have the power to change that simply by behaving with integrity. Tell us whom you listen to and why. Tell us how it helps you. Tell us before you pass their Bill.

We need you to dream about a future that is planned and sustainable. This future needs to embrace renewable energy, reduced warming, intelligent peacekeeping and global diplomacy. This future must have an absolute disregard for the Political origin of a new idea or plan. If an idea has merit, on its own, the source is meaningless.

We need a future that is not spent scrambling from crisis to crisis in a series of patches and fixes. We need you to imagine it, invent it and implement it. If you don't smile when you imagine the future, you need to imagine a different one. If you find that you don't have the time or the psyche to envision a better, happier, healthier, forward-looking country...Quit now. Resign.

We need you to remember that there are endless numbers of qualified, experienced, serious advisers available for you to question and learn from. Get your advice from a source that makes sense and demand that your sources show you the evidence. We need you to get your science advice from scientists, your management advice from managers, labor advice from laborers, your military advice from soldiers and your foreign policy advice from diplomats.

Simply believing in a stand, direction, policy or plan is not good enough. Show us the reasons for your plan and who helped you work it out. Don't parade your values or your beliefs. Values and Beliefs are not a Plan. Show us **Plans** for a future that works.

That's all we need from you.

Thanks, in advance.