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For Immediate Release
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BUSBY APPLAUDS HASTER ENDORSEMENT OF HER PLAN TO BAN PRIVATELY FUNDED CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL

Encinitas – Today Congressional Candidate Francine Busby wrote to House Speaker Dennis Hastert applauding him for supporting her proposal to ban privately funded congressional travel. As part of her Change Legislative Ethics and Attitudes Now (CLEAN) House Act that was released on November 11, 2005, Busby called for a ban on all privately funded congressional travel.

“I am incredibly glad that you have decided to support one portion of my CLEAN House Act, which I released in November. Banning privately funded congressional travel should be one part of comprehensive ethics reform legislation,” Busby wrote.

Busby’s CLEAN House Act includes three additional provisions including a ban on outside financial relationships between representatives and government contractors, a ban on representatives promoting specific businesses for government contracts and ban anonymous appropriation earmarks.

“While I am pleased that you have decided to support one of my reform proposals, I encourage you to include my comprehensive CLEAN House Act and CLEAN Office Proposal as part of your ethics reform agenda. Cleaning up Congress requires more than enacting one or two changes to House rules - it requires a dramatic and tough reform agenda,” Busby wrote.

Yesterday, Busby released her CLEAN Office Proposal, a tough set of rules on how her congressional office will interact with lobbyists. CLEAN Office eliminates secret lobbyist meetings, limit conflicts of interest as former members of Congress and former House staffers become lobbyists, bans lobbyist funded travel, and bans gifts from lobbyists.

“After Duke Cunningham and Jack Abramoff, it’s time to get serious about reform. The American people and the people in my district are fed up with the inaction of this Congress,” Busby added.

Links: “BUSBY UNVEILS 'CLEAN HOUSE ACT',” Press Release, Nov 11, 2005,
http://busbyforcongress.org/downloads/pressroom/20051121_pr_Clean-House.pdf



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Speaker Dennis Hastert
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert,

I am writing to you after reading of your intention to support a ban on privately funded congressional travel.

I am incredibly glad that you have decided to support one portion of my CLEAN House Act, which I released in November. Banning privately funded congressional travel should be one part of comprehensive ethics reform legislation.

While I am pleased that you have decided to support one of my reform proposals, the Congress can do so much more to break the unhealthy relationship between lobbyists and members. I encourage you to include my comprehensive CLEAN House Act and CLEAN Office proposals as parts of your ethics reform agenda. Cleaning up Congress requires more than enacting one or two changes to House rules - it requires a dramatic and tough reform agenda. I've attached a summary of both of my proposals.

As you and Congressman Dreier formulate your ethics reform legislation, I urge you to consider more than surface reforms that appease the press. While Jack Abramoff has brought some overdue attention to ethics reform, I hope that you understand that the ethics crisis in Washington does not end with Mr. Abramoff's guilty plea.

Washington is broken and it is causing Americans to lose faith in their own democracy and causing taxpayers to lose billions in sweetheart deals and backroom pork projects.

Do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions about CLEAN House or CLEAN Office. After Duke Cunningham and Jack Abramoff, it's time to get serious about reform. The American people and the people in my district are fed up with the inaction of this Congress.

Sincerely,

Francine P. Busby
Candidate for the 50th Congressional District of California