

**TO:** Governor Snyder and Republican Precinct Delegates, County Chairs, District Chairs, elected officials, and other friends

**FROM:** Clark Durant, Republican Candidate for U.S. Senate

**RE:** Congressman Pete Hoekstra's Super Bowl ad

February 5, 2012

Dear Governor Snyder and fellow Republicans:

Did you see Pete's Super Bowl commercial? How disappointing. Does not his 18-year voting record undermine his own ad? The Democrats certainly think so. Won't the people of Michigan think so too? Have you checked out some of the highly critical TEA party responses to Pete's record, independent of the ad itself? Are we getting an early warning?

Congressman Pete Hoekstra is spending almost \$200,000 to tell people that big-spending Debbie "SpendItNow" is responsible for China's prosperity, at America's expense. But Pete criticizes her for the exact debt-increasing and big-spending behavior that he himself has supported many, many times. All Pete's ad does is to allow him, in living color, to be viewed as a person who says one thing and does another. I ask you: Can Pete Hoekstra, a big-spending, debt-increasing, Republican career politician beat Debbie Stabenow, a big-spending, debt-increasing Democrat career politician? And especially when he is not even upfront with the people of Michigan about the similarity of his own record to hers?

As Republicans, we need to consider three hard facts of political life. First, you can't defeat someone in an election if you don't offer a clear difference on the issues that matter the most. Second, people don't trust those who blame others for conduct that they too are responsible for. Third, people are tired of Washington politicians.

Let's look into this in more detail because if Congressman Hoekstra cannot overcome these three hard facts of political life, can he beat Senator Stabenow in November?

First, Pete tries to paint Debbie as the big government spender. In point of fact, **he too** is the big government spender! They **both** have crippled our country with irresponsible debt and spending....into the trillions of dollars. They both voted over time to increase the debt ceiling by more than \$4 trillion and allowed the spending to flow like a tsunami. In fact, Pete voted for the Wall Street bailout, wasting almost a trillion taxpayer dollars...and Debbie did not! Debt and spending are the issues that matter most today. Pete does not offer a clear difference compared to Stabenow.

Second, Pete is saying one thing and he is doing another, which breaks down trust. He says he is Pete "SpendItNot", but his record is riddled with votes that are just the opposite. He blames Debbie "SpendItNow" for our debt catastrophe that has benefited the Chinese. Yet, he did just the same as she did...and now he wants to give the appearance he is a "penny pincher." As a Party, should we not ask if the people of Michigan will trust Pete when he blames others for a catastrophe that he significantly contributed to?

Third, Congressman Hoekstra has spent more than 18 years in Washington, first working as a politician and now working for a "K street" lobbying firm doing "business consulting"?! Debbie has spent almost her entire adult life as a career politician. People want a change from the "Washington Way" of career politicians.

Governor Snyder, and my friends in the Republican Party, I have been active in the Republican Party since walking precincts as a boy with my father in the late 1950's. Our Party as a viable political voice for the people is at risk because Congressional members of our Party have contributed to the current catastrophe, right along with the Democrats. Let us not forget that our Party began because we stood firm in 1854 on a simple idea: all men and women are created equal and are endowed by our Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Government was instituted by the people to protect these rights. The Whigs could not live up to these promises of the Declaration at a critical juncture in our nation's history. The Whigs died and the Republican Party was born.

This Republican Party can die too, if, at this critical juncture in our country's history, it cannot reverse the irresponsible debt and tsunami spending that will destroy our country. Both Senator Stabenow and Congressman Hoekstra have contributed significantly to this catastrophe. Simply put, Pete's voting record is terribly damaging to the effort of our Republican Party to capture Debbie's seat and to change the culture in Washington.

I decided to run for our Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate because our country is in deep trouble and only someone from the outside can defeat Debbie. Traditional career politicians of both parties created the mess, and Senator Stabenow can now only be defeated by an outsider who offers a clear and different vision of how America and freedom work.

Let us turn away from the Washington Way of more taxes, more spending, more special interests, more subsidies, more career politicians, and more crony capitalism. Let us have faith in the American Way of doing things, a way that trusts people to have more control over their own lives, allows them to keep more of what they earn, and gives people the opportunity to build stronger families and communities. Therefore, let us all join together to begin the effort to restore constitutional, limited government in Washington...and let us join with others who wish to do the same thing, whether they be in the Tea Party, independents, or disaffected Democrats. If we do, we will win in November, up and down the ticket.

Yours for the American Way,

Clark Durant

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PS: Several hours after Hoekstra posted his Super Bowl ad on his Facebook page, one reader commented as follows:

