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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The November special election you have proposed will cost taxpayers between \$40 and \$70 million. The state should not undertake such an extravagant expenditure. A close examination of campaign finance laws suggests the biggest reason for a 2005 special election is your desire to evade campaign finance laws that prohibit you from appearing in television advertisements by committees that do not accept campaign finance limits.

The Political Reform Act (section 85310) states that any committee which runs political advertisements featuring a candidate for office within 45 days of an election cannot accept campaign contributions of more than \$25,000 from any single person.

The ballot measure committee Citizens to Save California (CSC) was formed to promote your ballot agenda. Under FPPC regulation 18531.10, if CSC were to accept more than \$25,000 from any one person (an amount lower than what you were requesting at meetings this week), you would be barred from appearing in their campaign advertisements during the month and a half before the next scheduled election in which you are on the ballot, the June 2006 primary election for governor.

You have declared your intention to raise \$50 million for the campaign, much of it from out-of-state corporate interests. Such a goal could not be accomplished in 2006 under the Political Reform Act. An election crafted to get around campaign finance laws would be any politician's dream, but it is a nightmare for taxpayers who should not be forced to pick up the bill.

Your duty to the people of California is to be a responsible steward of our tax dollars. We urge you to call off the special election. A governor who ran for office on a platform of limiting the influence of money in politics should not be calling a special election to evade current campaign finance limitations.

Sincerely,

Jamie Court

Carmen Balber