

Dear Fellow Friends and Patriots,

We all realize without any doubts that our great country is at a crossroads. Future history will be very much determined by the actions of voters over the many weeks. We have traveled a long and hard road fighting endlessly for our Republic form of government and the freedoms and liberty of all Tennesseans and Americans alike. In some ways I feel spent, in other ways I remain optimistic about what the future may bring. Uncertainty is something we all have to live with regardless of our great effort to remove it from our political system. Our country has changed greatly from the days of our youth. The last few decades have brought amazing policy changes to the American way of life. We are left to wonder if our American culture as we have known it will even exist beyond the next election. Our Federal government has largely abandoned the will of the people and chosen to operate as they see fit inside the beltway. Not only are our cries not heard by Congress but the many demands of the states are also greatly ignored and only given cursory lip service before they die silently in a House or Senate backroom as the media moves on to their next assigned task for the political elites.

While Washington has bloodied and bruised the lot of us, we have still made some undeniable gains within our state of Tennessee. Our voices have been heard perhaps more than ever before over the last six years or so. We have had to remove some members of our legislature in order to give ourselves a better opportunity of success. We have also had to communicate much more than ever imagined to ensure we stay the course and maximize every legislative session with more freedom, less government, less taxation and great legislative leadership willing to advance a more conservative agenda.

In am writing today to speak specifically of the Speaker of the House position currently held by Rep. Beth Harwell. I have met Beth on multiple occasions and she is very pleasant and likeable. I do not wish to attack her with this email but I do wish to convey our lack of necessary legislative advancement under her leadership. Beth is

elected from District 56 in the Nashville area. Most of us realize that Nashville is a blue city, meaning a city run by Democrats for the most part. This means that Beth has a constituent base that is not all that conservative. If she is to remain in legislative office then it only makes sense that she is limited in pushing conservative legislation. In her role as House Speaker that is proving very problematic for us Tea Party types. Compounding that problem is the fact we have a moderate Governor in Bill Haslam. The combination of the two working closely together has basically cut us off at the knees in getting much of our legislative pillars advanced during session. We put forth great efforts in various critical legislative matters but all to no avail more often than not. This is happening when we have a Republican Super Majority in the legislature. Granted we still have many RINO's dug in like ticks on a hound but we still should have had more success than we have had.

The Speaker of the House determines which representatives are on what sub-committees and who the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of those sub-committees are as well. This is a great deal of power and casts an enormous shadow over the advancement of the legislative process. Indeed, a few bad decisions here and there can all but kill our conservative efforts regardless of how needed they may be to the citizens of Tennessee. This is not a problem without a remedy however.

In early December, by secret ballot, all House Representatives will be given the opportunity to elect the next Speaker of the House. This gives folks like us an opportunity to create some positive change God willing. In late August a group of very active tea party and political folks, myself included, met Representative Jimmy Matlock for lunch in Lenoir City, TN.

Rep. Matlock has officially announced he is running for the position of House Speaker in December. We wanted to get to know Jimmy a little better and see what a House run by Rep. Matlock might feel like to staunch conservatives who were present on that day. As far as I know, without exception, the people gathered for lunch that day all felt very good about the opportunity to put Rep. Jimmy Matlock in the

Speakers seat.

Rep. Matlock clearly sees and understands the crisis that America is currently enduring. He also sees that the Tennessee Legislature can be much more pro-active in advancing conservative laws and policies. Jimmy has been a member of the state legislature for multiple terms and we all feel we can count on him to do a masterful job of doling out committee assignments. Jimmy currently Chairs the Transportation Committee. He realizes that running for this Speaker's race and losing will cost him. He will lose his Chairmanship, lose his office and maybe even his parking spot but he said it's time for him to stand up and make a difference. I think we can thank his wife perhaps for finally pushing him to run for Speaker. She nor Jimmy are happy with the current political path we are on in our state or country. Jimmy hails from District 21 in Loudon County just outside of Knoxville and I can promise you it is a conservative district. Cross County Patriots(CCP) is the primary liberty minded group in his district and I try to attend at every opportunity. It is not unusual at all to see Jimmy Matlock sitting in the crowd at a CCP meeting even when he is not on the agenda to speak. He wants to hear the comments and concerns of these conservative constituents who are also friends. How many of you have your Representative showing up at your meeting uninvited and not on the speaking agenda? That tells you a little something in my book.

Rep. Jimmy Matlock is a Christian family man, a successful small business owner who creates jobs with three full service tire stores. He is a consistently conservative man who does not have a problem with pushing back against Washington either. We all realize we have to get state's rights back from an out of control Federal government. We can make many very good things happen if we will all just reach out and talk to all the many state representative we know and ask them to support and vote for Rep. Matlock as the next House Speaker. If you can, personal conversations are best but phone calls, emails or even a short note by mail will all be effective. If you feel like I do, meaning our progress has been too slow in areas where we see big problems within our state, then please help distribute the word to support Rep. Matlock for Speaker. We could quickly set a great example for the rest

of the country to follow and wouldn't it be nice to give Texas a run for their money on state legislation. The better we make things here in our state the easier dealing with a national economic crisis will become. Good government could be a salvation to us all during hard times so make the effort to help yourself by helping Representative Jimmy Matlock.

In Liberty,

Kevin Desmond