

ALL AMERICAN LEAGUE OF LOBBYISTS

For Immediate Release:

Lobbyists Applaud House Affirmation of First Amendment Rights

Washington, D.C. – Thursday, May 26, 2011 -- Today the American League of Lobbyists is pleased to announce a victory for free speech. In reaction to a call from ALL and the greater business community over a draft Executive Order from President Obama, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment by Congressman Tom Cole (OK-03) to HR 1540, the FY 2012 Defense Authorization bill, which directly prohibits federal agencies from requiring contractors to disclose campaign contributions.

In response, ALL President Howard Marlowe, said, “No American should have to fear that an opposing political belief will be used by an Administration as judgment in the determining process on who can offer the best services to our Government.” “The bipartisan passage of today’s amendment is a resounding call from both Democrats and Republicans that despite this Administration’s efforts, American’s will still be able to support political candidates or parties of their choice without fear of retribution on their livelihood.”

This Amendment makes clear that any political contribution made by a federal contractor or their designees cannot be collected or used in the application process for Federal contracts.

“No American should have to fear that an opposing political belief will be used by an Administration to determine who can offer the best services to our Government. A window is only transparent if the onlooker has perfect vision, and no-one in any Government can see without political glasses.” “We are pleased that the House has taken notice of this ill advised impediment to the freedom of speech,” added Mr. Marlowe.

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