

**May 15, 2006**

**Message From the Chair Emeritus**

Thirteen years ago the Fresno Business Council was established. The congealer that brought the founders together was strengthening the stewardship connection between those with public authority and the community they serve. Public officials were all too often lackeys whose primary function was to obey the wishes of the power brokers among them. Personal integrity had become secondary to seeking and retaining perks. We were recently given another example of the insidiousness of such a system. Rather than giving in to political pressure to vote against his conscience, our Assemblyman, Juan Arambula, voted in a manner in keeping with his academic, political and moral standards. For that he has been vilified. For shame. It reminds me of a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi – “Be the change you want to see in the world” – Be the change envisioned by the Fresno Business Council thirteen years ago. Thank you, Juan, for putting our words into your action.

**Definition of A Statesman**

“No matter what you are told by the sophisticated classes that see virtue in every form of corruption and corruption in every form of virtue, I think you know, as I do, that the American people hunger for a statesman magnetized by the truth, unwilling to give up his good name, uninterested in calculation only for the sake of victory, unable to put his interests before the nation. What this means in practical terms is no focus groups, no polls, no triangulation, no evasion, no broken promises, and no lies. These are the tools of a chameleon. They are employed to cheat the American people of honest answers to direct questions. Would that we in America come once again to understand that statesmanship is not the appetite for power—but—because things matter—a holy calling for self abnegation and self-sacrifice.” Mark Helprin.

**Letter to Speaker Fabian Nuñez From the Fresno Business Council**

*May 12, 2006*

*The Honorable Fabian Nuñez  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0046*

*Dear Speaker Nuñez:*

*On behalf of the board of the Fresno Business Council, I write to challenge your decisions to remove Assemblymember Juan Arambula from his committee assignment and change his office space. There are some decisions that are simply unacceptable and must be corrected.*

*Partisan and power politics prevent real solutions to critical problems. Juan Arambula has a long history of steward leadership in our community. He has earned the respect of people across every interest and perspective. A few years ago, we honored him with the Rose Ann Vuich Award for Ethical Leadership. He is exactly the kind of leader we so desperately need in public office, the kind of leader who acts from a place of personal integrity and a commitment to service.*

*The Fresno Business Council is made up of over one hundred business and professional leaders. Our contract for behavior is based upon ten community values. Juan Arambula is one of the leaders who inspired them. I have enclosed a copy. He is a valuable asset to the legislature, your party and our community.*

*We ask you to immediately restore Assemblymember Arambula to his position and his office space and enlist his help in our many challenges.*

**“The Only Purpose of Policy Is to Improve the Lives of Our Children”—Leon Panetta**