



June 13, 2007

Senator Gordon Smith
404 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510
via fax: 202-228-3997

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your call today regarding your fundraising event this Saturday. As I mentioned when you called, I was in a meeting, and therefore was not able to speak freely.

I do in fact have a prior commitment and would not be able to attend the function, however I would like to follow up and tell you more importantly that I can no longer support you either financially or personally.

Early in your campaigns you and I discussed Plaid Pantries, Inc., and in particular the importance of our tobacco and alcohol categories. You expressed your support of small business, and that while you may not personally use or endorse the use of alcohol and tobacco, you believed that a legal product, sold legally by law-abiding retailers and used legally by our customers, was appropriate.

I am very troubled that you are now singling out a large segment of our customers with an unfair tax, both in your efforts on the federal excise tax front, and your disappointing public support of Oregon's efforts to raise the state cigarette tax.

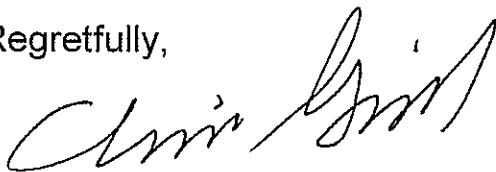
Plaid provides health insurance for its employees at a very high cost to our company, because it is a necessary and important benefit for our employees. I and Plaid Pantries, Inc. support providing health coverage for uninsured kids. But if we all agree that this is a good thing, then the only fair way to address this issue is for all citizens to share proportionately in such a worthwhile endeavor.

I regret that you have chosen the easy way.... proposing and promoting a "niche" tax, singling out a relative voiceless minority, and punishing small business.

I considered not following up with my full explanation after your phone call, but feel that you need to know that I and many other small business owners are terribly disappointed in your change in priorities and consideration of small business. We never expected you to "like" tobacco and alcohol.... but we also did not expect you to abandon your commitment to small businesses, selling legal products to customers who do enjoy using these products.

I also believe it is important for you to know that I am struggling with much more than a one-time schedule conflict in considering future support.

Regretfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Girard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "G".

Chris Girard
President & CEO, Plaid Pantries, Inc.
Chairman, Oregon Neighborhood Store Association
Member, National Association of Convenience Stores