

## Castle Co-Sponsors Election Reform Bill -- February 7, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, long a leader in campaign finance reform and ethics reform, today helped introduce legislation aimed at bringing more accountability and transparency to the campaign and election processes.

Along with Rep. David Price, Castle introduced the "Responsible Campaign Communications Act" to extend the current "Stand By Your Ad" requirements for radio and television ads to Internet audio and video communications, including email; and at the beginning of pre-recorded telephone calls, or "robo-calls." Currently, "Stand by Your Ad" -- more commonly known as the "I approved this message!" tagline - requires candidates for federal office to take responsibility for their radio and TV election ads, but does not currently apply to the additional ads described above. The legislation would apply to communications authorized or paid for by candidates or political committees - not to bloggers.

"Like it or not, with the advent of increasingly sophisticated technology, voters are being targeted through communications means that we may not even have thought of five years ago. That is why it is critical that all types of electioneering communication are transparent -- voters deserve to know who is behind these advertisements. This legislation will apply the 'I approved this message' logo to all election ads," Castle said.

The Price-Castle legislation is supported by the non-partisan campaign watchdog groups Democracy 21 and the Campaign Legal Center. Fred Wertheimer, founder and President of Democracy 21, said, "It is simple and unassailable logic that the same campaign finance rules should apply to a campaign ad placed on the Internet by a candidate that apply to the same campaign ad run by the candidate on television or radio...The Price-Castle legislation would [also] help ensure that robo-callers take responsibility for making sure that voters know who is behind the robo-calls they receive. We congratulate Representatives Price and Castle for their important leadership on behalf of ensuring that voters are clearly informed about who is responsible for the campaign communications they receive."

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