

March 31, 2006 PRESS RELEASE

**WHY NO ABRAMOFF INVESTIGATION, MR. ENGLISH?**

In a press release today Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Pennsylvania, demanded that his opponent, incumbent Republican Phil English, explain why he voted against a congressional investigation into the ties between convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff and Congress.

Referring to House Resolution 746, introduced yesterday and defeated by a vote of 216-193, Porter asked English to explain why he joined the Republican majority which killed the investigation. "What are you afraid of, Mr. English?" Porter said. "At a time when the public's opinion of Congress is at one of the lowest points in history, why run away from the process of putting a little sunshine and fresh air into the House of Representatives?"

"I find it significant," Porter went on, "that all but six Republicans voted to squelch the investigation of influence peddling in Congress. I have repeatedly said that integrity in government is one of the key issues of the 2006 elections. The atmosphere of corruption in Washington is a national disgrace. I applaud the Democrats and the six Republicans who, unlike Mr. English, had the courage to vote for this investigation.

"Had I been in Congress, I certainly would have voted for the bill with relish. And when I get the chance to represent the people of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district in Congress, you can rest assured that I will be a strong and tireless advocate for restoring integrity to the federal government. And the best way to do it is to institute public funding of congressional campaigns along the lines now used by the state of Maine.

"We simply have to take special interest money out of the equation in American elections. Until we do, our democracy will only be a shell of its real potential. I cannot think of a more significant difference between Mr. English and myself than our position on this issue. So if the public is happy with what the Bush-Cheney crowd in Washington has done for them (or should I say to them?), then I guess Mr. English is their man. But if they want a government free from corruption, then I ask for their support and votes in my campaign for the Congress of the United States."

Dr. Porter's detailed views on the key issues of this campaign are again attached to this press release so that the public may be informed of his positions.