



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
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April 26, 2005

Senator Bob Bennett
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 South State Street, Suite 4225
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1188

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 12

Dear Senator Bennett,

I am writing on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Utah to thank you for your continued opposition to a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to prohibit the desecration of the United States flag.

The ACLU of Utah represents over two thousand members, all of whom live in Utah and are committed to the principles outlined in the Bill of Rights. It is no accident that freedom of speech is protected in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, and like our country's founders, the ACLU of Utah believes that free speech and expression are fundamental to a democratic society.

It is in fact a testament to the power of the symbol of the American flag that people choose to use it for a vehicle of passionate political expression. And political expression, however abrasive, is protected by any reasonable interpretation of the First Amendment. In your principled opposition to the constitutional amendment, you have been a true hero of the Bill of Rights.

I am also writing to encourage you to stand strong on this issue. Two weeks ago, the flag desecration amendment was reintroduced as Senate Joint Resolution 12. More than ever, the residents of Utah need you to support free speech by opposing an amendment that undermines the very principles for which the American flag stands.

Thank you again for your support of the First Amendment and your reluctance to tinker with the Constitution.

With appreciation,

Dani Eyer
Executive Director