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2009, for many of us, is shaping up like a bad political dream. California, run by the maddest of Democrats and a seemingly clueless Governor, is teetering on the brink of disaster. Republican leaders in Sacramento gave us the largest tax increase in State history, in the middle of the worst economy in 25 years. As a fiscal conservative, where do you turn?

The Lincoln Club of Fresno County.

I knew the day would come when we had to run against our own Party. We could see it for years. Republicans have, for too long, abandoned the core principles which made us the majority Party in the 1990's. We have simply had it. The time is here. Higher taxes and bigger government are the only issues we have left, and we will fight with our last breath to defeat anyone, including Republicans, that enable the dysfunctional State government to continue to tax Californians at the highest rates in America, while delivering an inferior and grossly overpriced product to taxpayers.

If you are a Lincoln Club member, I am asking you to renew at the highest level possible as we prepare to wage an ad campaign against the Governor's Propositions in May. If you have never considered joining the Lincoln Club, I encourage you to invest in a political action committee you can count on. We will never betray the fiscally conservative principles that are the bedrock of the GOP.

Thanks to the strong support of ordinary citizens and businesses, in 2008 we accomplished several major objectives. We had a significant role in electing Larry Westerlund to another term on the Fresno City Council and in seeing to it that conservatives such as Lee Brand and Andreas Borgeas won decisive victories in their Council races.

We highlighted the inexperience of Henry Perea in the Fresno Mayoral race to help ensure a resounding win for Ashley Swearengin, and our website received over 80,000 hits in the four weeks prior to the election as voters flocked to our influential voter guide.

Perhaps our most significant accomplishment in 2008 was the pressure we brought to bear on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, who were in the process of gutting the County Public Safety Budget when we intervened with a tough radio campaign.

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Our campaign was aimed at exposing a Board majority more concerned with expanding healthcare than protecting its citizens. Our efforts prevailed, as public safety funding was restored.

In 2009, we will fight to defeat Propositions 1A-F and to gird for battle whenever another issue of importance affects our local citizens. I've enclosed an application and return envelope for your consideration.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of our Board members at the email addresses listed on our website, www.fresnolincolnclub.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Der Manouel, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Michael Der Manouel, Jr.
Chairman