



August 12, 2013

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Board of Directors**

**Wendy L. Gramm, Ph.D.**  
Chairman  
Helotes, TX

**Brooke Rollins**  
President  
Austin, TX

**Phil D. Adams**  
Bryan, TX

**Ernest Angelo Jr.**  
Midland, TX

**Tim Dunn**  
Midland, TX

**Windi Grimes**  
Houston, TX

**Victor Leal**  
Amarillo, TX

**James R. Leininger, M.D.**  
San Antonio, TX

**Thomas W. Lyles Jr.**  
San Antonio, TX

**Kendall Miller**  
Houston, TX

**Brenda Pejovich**  
Dallas, TX

**Jeff D. Sandefer**  
Austin, TX

**George Seay**  
Dallas, TX

**Kyle Stallings**  
Midland, TX

**George W. Strake Jr.**  
Houston, TX

Dear Senator Durbin:

In an age of ever-expanding federal power, with our constitutional freedoms increasingly circumscribed, the ideas of limited government, free markets and federalism have become more vital than ever. Those are the pillars of the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) mission. Moreover, for 40 years, ALEC has provided an indispensable forum for the exchange of diverse policy ideas. For these reasons, we at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) support ALEC and its important mission.

Like ALEC, TPPF believes in the core values of our Founding Fathers. We develop and discuss policies that promote these core values in a number of areas, occasionally partnering with ALEC. For example, TPPF has led the nation in criminal justice reform. In Texas, 8,000 prison beds are empty where only six years ago we faced a deficit of 17,000 prison beds. Crime rates are down, as is recidivism, and public safety has improved, all with enormous cost savings to the public. ALEC helped to educate state legislators on these vital reforms, which are gaining increasingly bipartisan support.

Public policy organizations such as TPPF and ALEC deserve to be respectfully engaged even by those opposed to limited government and individual liberty. We are disappointed that, instead, it appears you are attempting to intimidate ALEC and like-minded groups whose policy views you disagree with.

As the Framers of our Constitution foresaw, the expansion of federal power has resulted in the increasing intimidation and suppression of political opposition—from the abuses of the IRS and FEC to your own letter. That's why we recently joined a lawsuit against the abuses of the Internal Revenue Service. We will not be intimidated.

Very respectfully,

Dr. Wendy Gramm  
Chairman of the Board

Brooke Rollins  
President & CEO

cc: The Hon. John Cornyn, The Hon. Ted Cruz