Dear Republican Friend,

Amidst all the outrage being expressed about the bonuses awarded by American International Group (A.I.G.), I wanted to call your attention to this clip from CNN News yesterday.

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, placed an amendment in the "stimulus" bill that allowed for banks bailed out with taxpayer money - including A.I.G. - to hand out huge bonuses without any government oversight or regulation, as long as those bonuses were issued before February 11.

A.I.G. did just that, paying out $165 million in taxpayer-funded bonuses, including more than $1 million each to 73 people, as well as $33.6 million for 52 people who had already LEFT the company. This came AFTER the company received almost $200 billion in taxpayer funds to stay afloat.

It is no wonder that Senator Dodd received more campaign contributions from A.I.G. than any other politician during the 2008 cycle, including President Obama. As FOX News put it yesterday, "A.I.G. must be feeling very grateful to Chris Dodd this morning."

As we watch these Washington politicians simmering with their new-found populist outrage, it is worth noting that some of them are responsible for the very acts they are now so loudly condemning.

Thanks again for your support,

Rob Jesmer
Executive Director
National Republican Senatorial Committee