

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2009

Messrs. H. Frank Lay and Robert Freeman
4065 Norris Road
Pace, FL 32571

Dear Messrs. Lay and Freeman:

Please know that we are standing with you in prayer and support as you face your trial on Thursday because of an offering of prayer.

We are writing today as Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bipartisan group of fifty-four Members in the United States House of Representatives dedicated to protecting religious liberty, acknowledging the important role that prayer plays in American life, and recognizing our nation's rich, spiritual history.

Many of America's Founding Fathers were resolute in their faiths, and the impact of such is evident in the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and their many other writings. We recognize the importance of Americans understanding the profound influence faith has had on our nation and its leaders.

When the first session of Congress was held, Reverend William Linn was elected as Chaplain of the House on May 1, 1789. He began the tradition established by the Continental Congresses to start each day's proceedings opening with a prayer by a chaplain. We continue this tradition today, by beginning each legislative day with prayer. Additionally, as Members of the Prayer Caucus, we meet together every week on the first day the House is in session to pray for each other, for wisdom for the votes we will cast that week, and for our country.

The tradition of offering prayer in America has become so interwoven into our nation's spiritual heritage, that to charge someone criminally for engaging in such an innocent practice would astonish the men who founded this country on religious liberty.

Sincerely,


J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress


MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress


JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress

Cc: Michelle Winkler