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Senator Corzine,

Thank you for your response concerning your stance on the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. In your response, you said, "In my view, we recite the Pledge of Allegiance to show respect for our Country and unity as Americans."

Let me make two points against the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Statistics show that approximately 15% of adult Americans are insulted by the phrase "under God", either because they are non-religious or practice a religion that does not believe to be under one god. For 15% of adult Americans, the phrase "under God" is a direct affront to their religious sensibilities.

The phrase was added to the Pledge in 1954, in defiance of the "godless" communist threat. Well, **the Cold War is over**. In the current political and terrorist climate, one could easily argue that "God" is causing more problems for the U.S. government than he is solving.

I ask you again to reconsider your stance on this matter.

My source material:

A study about religion from the City University of New York Graduate Center, published as "One Nation Under God: Religion in Contemporary American Society" by Barry A. Kosmin and Seymour P. Lachman says that In 2001, 14% of adult Americans had no religious identity. That is a dramatic increase from 1990 where 8% had no religious identification.

Census.gov: Residents over age 18 in the US in 2001U: 212,701,251

http://www.gc.cuny.edu/press_information/current_releases/october_2001_aris.htm

<http://www.adherents.com>

Statistics from Adherents.com

One God Religions In America	2001 Est. Adult Pop.
Christianity	159,030,000
Judaism	2,831,000
Islam	1,104,000
Sikhism	57,000
Baha'i	84,000
Deity (Deist)	49,000
Total	163,155,000

Other Belief Systems In America	2001 Est. Adult Pop.
Nonreligious/Secular	27,539,000
Buddhism	1,082,000
Agnostic	991,000
Atheist	902,000
Hinduism	766,000
Unitarian Universalist	629,000
Wiccan/Pagan/Druid	307,000
Spiritualist	116,000
Native American Religion	103,000
New Age	68,000
Scientology	55,000
Humanist	49,000
Taoist	40,000
Total	32,647,000