United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 2005

Honorable Karl Rove
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Rove:

We write to request that you immediately retract the unfortunate and divisive comments you made during a fundraiser yesterday that:

> *"liberals saw the savagery of the 9/11 attacks and wanted to prepare indictments and offer therapy and understanding for our attackers."*

Your comments were inaccurate and inflammatory. To come into the heart of New York City, which has suffered so deeply and is still recovering from those savage attacks, to try to score partisan, political points at the expense of the 3,000 victims and their families was unacceptable and opportunistic. It was a slap in the face to the unity that America achieved after September 11, 2001. The tragic events of 9/11 have not been, and should never be, used for partisan purposes.

The attacks of 9/11 united our states and our country like no other singular event in this generation. Republicans and Democrats – indeed all Americans – were united in a determined and passionate belief that we must put an end to terrorism and to those who would do our nation harm. When the terrorists who planned these attacks were identified, we all came together to quickly and overwhelmingly authorize your Administration to seek those terrorists out and to destroy them where they hid.

Indeed, merely three days after the attacks, a *unanimous* Senate voted to give President Bush authority to:

> *"use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons."*

We understand that there are many issues that divide us, but there are just as many – more, even – that unite us as a people and as a nation. And no issue has united us more than our steadfast determination to root out terrorists and to prevent future attacks.

This was not, and has never been, a partisan issue, until your offensive comments yesterday. You should retract those remarks without further delay.

Sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton