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In appreciation of Rep. Sullivan's writing

To the Editor: This is an email I sent to my Representative in the State House of Representatives, Linda Joy Sullivan of Dorset, in response to her email to me copying the commentary which she wrote to – and which was published by – The Manchester Journal last week.

Linda, I am so proud to know you and so grateful and honored that you represent me and my neighbors in the state House of Representatives. The statement/article appearing in the Manchester Journal this week is a masterpiece of in-depth thought and articulation. You are an exceptional writer and such a clear thinker, sweeping politics aside and sticking to the nub of the problems of legislating budgets and taxes, the essence of which presents all of us with a challenge that has been a long time a-comin' and which too many of your legislative colleagues, particularly the "leadership," simply and consistently refuse to face head-on and with impartiality.

For them, it's all politics and primarily an effort to retain power, using obfuscation as a leading tool in confusing and deliberately trying to mislead their constituents. Thank God that there are a few thoughtful, caring and serious legislators who respect those of us who elect them and who view their legislative responsibilities in doing what's right for those who choose them and stand up for them under the Golden Dome in Montpelier.

I, for one, am sick and tired of too many of those in the General Assembly who assume the fact that they sit in the legislature by right rather than by the deputation of those who select them to be their representative.

Unfortunately, there is too great an abundance of legislators whose principal occupation is to retain office and maintain power and whose overwhelming interests are fundamentally to get elected or re-elected.

That there are some in the leadership circle who, rather with their own selfish and personal ambitions in mind, betray the hard and serious efforts on the parts of many of their more objective and far thinking colleagues in designing or modifying proposed legislation for the benefit of the majority of all Vermont citizens and who use their positions of prominence merely to promote their own singular political and governorship development. Such usurping of leadership privilege is disgraceful and extremely harmful to all the rest of us.

Thank you and your objective colleagues for making the effort to afford compromise in the very complicated process of designing a reasonable state budget that could be brought about without punishing the good people of Vermont with the imposition of the even greater burdens of increased taxes. You obviously care whereas certain dominance-hungry political potentates in positions of authority in the legislature just don't give a damn about the rest of us as long as they can exercise their dictatorial strength without question.

Ralph Colin, East Dorset