



*My name is Dan Gee, I am a lifelong resident of Cedar Rapids and the President of Gee Asphalt Systems, Inc. My business was affected by the June floods.*

As you know, Cedar Rapids was ravaged by flooding in June of this year. At that time, elected leaders at every level of government pledged their cooperation to help our city recover. Our state's governor, Chet Culver, spoke about the possible need for a special session of the legislature in order to help speed recovery efforts by getting aid to the people that need it.

While news cycles move fast, and many people probably don't know, I can tell you that three months later, Cedar Rapids still remains a disaster area.

There is still a curfew at night in downtown Cedar Rapids. There are areas in Cedar Rapids that lack electricity, phones or even common public works like street lights.

And there are people that still lack housing.

In Cedar Rapids there are people that are sleeping in makeshift tents in their front yards. It is disgusting that three months after this disaster, this same kind of mess remains.

This is another abject failure of our state government. Certainly, the biggest failure of our state government during my lifetime. I fail to understand why if Iowa has a "Rainy Day Fund" that Governor Culver has not used it. If this disaster does not qualify for its use, what does?

People in Cedar Rapids are hurting. It is not acceptable to blame another part of government or point fingers. The time is now for real solutions and real action. I was disappointed when I learned something today that you should know about Chet Culver.

In June when Culver came to Cedar Rapids during the floods he promised help, then returned in July for a press event with Democrat nominee for President Barack Obama and again promised help. Yesterday, Culver and U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to Cedar Rapids to promise help. This is the same House Speaker that recessed the congress for 5 weeks of vacation while people in Cedar Rapids continued to suffer.

The same day Culver promised to help Eastern Iowans, he hosted a \$10,000 dollar a plate dinner for Vice Presidential hopeful Joe Biden in Des Moines, the same day he spoke of the suffering flood victims he raised thousands of dollars for a political event, and none for the residents suffering here in Cedar Rapids.

I can't help but feel that the pain and suffering of the people of Cedar Rapids is only good enough for stumping and press conferences for these politicians – but not good enough for them to quit the politics and DO SOMETHING.

I would like to encourage Chet Culver to spend less time campaigning for Barack Obama and Joe Biden raising money for their campaign for president – and spend more time getting money for people and constituents in Cedar Rapids.

I encourage you to call Chet Culver and ask him to do the work he was hired (elected) to do. Iowans don't need politicians raising money for campaigns. Iowans need **leadership** from their governor and other elected leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Gee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Gee, President  
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