

Mike Erlandson, Chair
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August 7, 2003

Dear DFL Friend,

We have all heard it, "President Bush is too popular and can't be beat". After twenty years in politics, one thing I can tell you with great certainty is that two weeks are an eternity, let alone the fifteen months we have before Election Day 2004. We beat George W. in 2000 and with your help we will do our part in Minnesota to beat him again next year.

Since the stir over the inconsistent information and subsequent words Bush used to support going to war, the President's credibility – along with his favorable ratings – have dropped. **Recent polls have shown the President's re-elect number below 50%.** The fight to regain the promise of America has begun; no longer will anyone be able to say honestly that George Bush is unbeatable.

George Bush says the sixteen words he used in his State of the Union speech were just a "small piece" of the evidence against the Hussein regime. However, when he spoke those now infamous words, only half of the American public supported a preemptive strike against Saddam Hussein. Bush needed to, and did, raise the stakes with those flawed words, words he used to frighten the nation and the world. Bush also added an Iraqi tie to Al-Qaida's September 11, 2001 attacks on America – a claim he made with no factual support or evidence.

At the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party we have been combating Bush's claims on the economy, the deficit and Iraq so that our Democratic Presidential nominee can win in Minnesota. If we hope to remove Bush from the White House, we must win right here at home. Minnesota will be one of fifteen major Bush-Cheney targets next year and our ten electoral votes could very well provide the margin of victory – this will be a close election again. To do that we will stay on the offensive as we organize and get our message out.

The White House wants voters to believe all that has gone wrong since Bush was "selected" President is someone else's responsibility. What has happened to Republican accountability? **Mr. President, please be accountable to the American people by simply asking this question: "Are you better off today than you were when I took office?"**

This is a critical time for the State DFL Party. As we put our 2004 election infrastructure together we are working to be more efficient and effective than ever. Money will be a huge challenge as the Bush machine raised \$7 million in just one night in Texas recently – yes that is \$7,000,000.00!!! **The President's campaign is on target to raise \$275 million for his re-election.** That means he will be able to outspend his Democratic opponent by as much as three times. If we are going to help counter this we will have to spend every dollar carefully and we will have to activate huge numbers of volunteers. In 2002, President Bush made defeating Paul Wellstone his number one priority, in 2004 we need to do everything we can to send George back to his ranch.

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We need every Democrat like never before, every citizen who wants change to stand up and make a difference. You are one of the DFL's front line supporters, the people who write the checks and volunteer time. **We are expanding our field efforts, conducting voter identification, updating our message tools, launching our new website, built an in-house radio studio and are working on building a TV studio.** I know these and many other efforts will make a difference in 2004.

Thank you for your past support. If we are going to accomplish our goal of sending President Bush back to Texas the DFL needs your help once again. With Republicans raising millions of dollars, I am asking every Democrat to make a contribution today. Our average contribution at the DFL Party is \$40, making every donation critical to our success. A donation of \$50, \$25, \$100, \$250, \$500 or whatever you can afford would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of Democrats from Ada to Zumbrota, thank you for your consideration of a donation. Your contribution will be used wisely and efficiently as we prepare our best effort ever in 2004. Let's all "stand up and keep fighting".

Sincerely,



Mike Erlandson
State Chairman
Minnesota DFL Party

P.S. The race for the presidency is now in full swing, we need your help today. President Bush will raise more money than any candidate in U.S. history. We are in an uphill financial battle and we need help from every Democrat to overcome his advantage.

*P.P.S. The Minnesota political contribution refund program allows Minnesota citizens a one time \$50 per year contribution to be fully refunded by the state (\$100 for a married couple). After you contribute to the DFL I will send you a form, with instructions, to get your state refund. This process takes about eight weeks. **Thank you!***