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March 22, 2006

Attn: Campaign Manager

Dear:

The U.S. Congress deals with critical issues of peace and nuclear weapons on the national and international levels. We seek to inform voters of the positions of candidates on these important issues before the November election. We believe this is essential to educating the electorate so they can make the informed choices necessary in a democracy.

Toward that end, we are planning to issue voter guides to inform voters of candidate positions. We have issued similar voter guides in previous years, and have found them to be very helpful for informing voters.

Enclosed is a Candidate Questionnaire. **Please take a few minutes to complete and sign the form, and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by DATE.** We plan to publish the voter guide this summer, and need your answers by then to give us time to compile and print the information.

If we don't receive your answers by then, we may seek the information from your voting record and/or try to garner the information from your public statements. **Alternatively, we may list you as a candidate who refused to respond to our questionnaire—which we would rather not do.**

We plan to distribute the information in the voter guide to our own supporters, through sister organizations, and via the mass media. We hope to get as wide a circulation as possible prior to Election Day.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me as indicated in the masthead. I hope to receive your completed questionnaire in the very near future.

Sincerely,

1.) In its 2002 Nuclear Posture Review, the Bush administration called for the creation of a new generation of offensive nuclear weapons, including a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), or “bunker buster,” and so-called “mini-nukes” through an Advanced Concepts program. Critics of these programs expressed concerns about their impact on international non-proliferation efforts because developing new weapons sends a strong signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. has no plans to abide by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In 2004 and 2005, bipartisan Congressional leadership eliminated funding for research on these new weapons, forcing the Bush administration to abandon its drive for RNEP and Advanced Concepts. However, a new program, the Reliable Replacement Warhead, also presents similar concerns. In FY2006, Congress appropriated \$24.7 million for this program, and for FY2007 the Bush administration has requested \$27.7 million. **What is your position on new nuclear weapons and the Reliable Replacement Warhead?**

**I support the Reliable Replacement Warhead.**

**I oppose the Reliable Replacement Warhead.**

**Please Explain:**

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2.) As part of its drive to build a new generation of nuclear weapons, the Bush administration has also attempted to reduce the required preparation time to conduct an underground nuclear test to no more than 18 months. To allow for the possibility of future testing, the Bush administration refuses to send the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty back to the Senate for ratification. **What is your position on the resumption of explosive nuclear weapons testing?**

**I support the resumption of nuclear testing.**

**I oppose the resumption of nuclear testing.**

**Please Explain:**

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**3.)** At approximately \$10 billion per year, missile defense is America’s single largest weapons expenditure, yet it has not been operationally tested and offers no protection against terrorism. Though the Pentagon deployed a ground-based system in the fall of the 2004, the Pentagon’s top weapons inspector has expressed doubts about the system, and the CIA has found that deployment of missile defense would trigger “an unsettling series of political and military ripple effects.” **What is your position on national missile defense?**

**I support national missile defense.**

**I oppose national missile defense.**

**Please Explain:**

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**4.)** After September 11, President Bush removed virtually all restrictions on U.S. military aid and weapons sales to human rights-abusing governments. Recipients include Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Indonesia and others, and all have “poor” human rights records according to the U.S. State Department.

A particular area of concern is U.S. military training to countries that use child soldiers. In its annual human rights report, the State Department identified 15 countries where government or government-linked forces use child soldiers in violation of international standards. Yet, since

2001, the U.S. has continued supplying military assistance (either arms, training or both) to eleven of those fifteen. These actions weaken global efforts to end the use of child soldiers and reward human rights violating countries with access to highly coveted U.S. weapons and services. **Would you work to prohibit U.S. arms sales and military training to governments that the State Department deems human rights abusers?**

**Yes, I will work to prohibit arms sales and military training to governments that the State Department deems human rights abusers.**

**No, I will not work to prohibit arms sales and military training to governments that the State Department deems human rights abusers.**

**Please Explain:**

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5.) The ostensible purpose of the preemptive invasion of Iraq was to protect Americans by advancing the goals of the global fight against terrorism. Using this benchmark, the war in Iraq has been a colossal failure.

An assessment by the International Institute for Strategic Studies notes that the occupation has “galvanized” al-Qaeda and become a “potent global recruitment pretext” for the group, whose ranks have swelled to 18,000 militants. Consequently, foreign policy experts argue that the U.S.-led occupation directly contributes to the growing strength of the insurgency. For these reasons alone, an end to the occupation would be a powerful step forward for American national security and the future of Iraq. As Republican Congressman Walter Jones (NC-3) states, "We are now an army of occupation and (our troops) will be the object of the wrath of the insurgency." **What is your position on a time-lined withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, beginning in 2006?**

**I support a time-lined withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, beginning in 2006.**

**I oppose a time-lined withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, beginning in 2006.**

**Please Explain:**

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6.) The perception that the United States may have long-term ambitions in Iraq creates resentment among the general population of Iraq and aids the insurgency in recruiting supporters. By unequivocally stating that the United States does not seek a permanent military presence in Iraq, our government would send a clear signal to the Iraqi people that we fully support their efforts to establish democracy and exercise sovereignty. **What is your position on the presence of permanent U.S. bases in Iraq?**

**I support the presence of permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.**

**I oppose the presence of permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.**

**Please Explain:**

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7.) Documents received through an ACLU lawsuit have shown that Peace Action has been spied on by the FBI. The FBI has used federal “Joint Terrorism Task Force” money to spy on the first amendment activities of Peace Action and many other peaceful, non-violent organizations including Greenpeace and the ACLU. The FBI’s surveillance of domestic peace groups, and new information about domestic Pentagon and NSA surveillance make clear that the administration’s efforts to stop terrorism are running amok and focusing, illegally, on the wrong targets. These administration efforts to strip away civil liberties make us less safe by diverting money from tracking the real terrorists. **If elected, would you support efforts to stop the**

**administration's illegal and sometimes warrant-less surveillance of citizens and domestic organizations?**

**Yes, if elected I will support efforts to stop the administration's illegal and sometimes warrant-less surveillance of citizens and domestic organizations.**

**No, if elected I will oppose efforts to stop the administration's illegal and sometimes warrant-less surveillance of citizens and domestic organizations.**

**Please Explain:**

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**8.)** Part of the United States' foreign policy is to promote human rights around the world. The horrible abuses documented in photographs from the U.S.-run Abu-Ghraib prison in Iraq have unleashed a fierce debate in Washington over how we can prevent such cruelty, which is illegal under U.S. law and an affront to our own policy on human rights. In 2005, under the leadership of John McCain, Congress passed a measure to prohibit U.S. officials from using torture during interrogations. Many Americans believe that Congress needs to go further to prevent such abuses by setting up an independent bipartisan commission to examine what events and policies led to these heinous acts of cruelty. **Did you or would you have voted for the 2005 McCain amendment to prohibit torture and would you support an independent bipartisan commission to investigate previous abuses?**

**I voted or would have voted for the 2005 McCain amendment to prohibit torture.**

**I did not nor would I have voted for the 2005 McCain amendment to prohibit torture.**

**I support an independent bipartisan commission to investigate previous abuses.**

**I oppose an independent bipartisan commission to investigate previous abuses.**

**Please Explain:**

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9.) As the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan drag on, the Pentagon is aggressively collecting personal data on millions of youth and students to help military recruiters target young people for enlistment. The federal legislation of the No Child Left Behind Act's military recruiting provision (S. 9528) forces public high schools to give recruiters students' contact information unless they specifically "opt-out" (a right most students don't even realize they have). In response, H.R. 551, the Student Privacy Protection Act of 2005 amends the military recruitment provisions of No Child Left Behind by prohibiting military recruiters from contacting students unless these minors and their parents specifically "opt-in" and consent to sharing their contact information and receiving such communications. Additionally, Pentagon contractors are now obtaining private data on young people's race, ethnicity, income, extracurricular interests, academic record, family background, spending habits and more to store in a national military recruitment database, which violates the federal Privacy Act, costs taxpayers more than \$350 million and gravely undermines young people's civil liberties. Youth aged 16-25 are largely not aware that this personal information is being mined and shared by Pentagon contractors and, unlike the No Child Left Behind Act, they have no way to "opt-out" of their information being stored in this database. **If elected, would you support H.R. 551? Would you support efforts to stop the Pentagon's consolidated military recruitment database?**

**I support H.R. 551.**

**I oppose H.R. 551.**

**I support efforts to stop the Pentagon's consolidated military recruitment database.**

**I oppose efforts to stop the Pentagon's consolidated military recruitment database.**

**Please Explain:**

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**10.)** In 2007, \$460 billion of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request will go to the Pentagon. This is 53% of the discretionary spending, which does not even include the money the Bush administration will ask for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Three years into the Iraq War, the Bush administration is still paying for these wars through “emergency supplementals,” which are separate from the budget and do not factor into deficit calculations. To pay for these bloated Pentagon programs, the administration and Congress cut funding for programs that address human needs, such as federal student loans, Medicare and Medicaid. Congresswomen Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) and Barbara Lee (D-CA) have introduced the Common Sense Budget Act, H.R. 4898. This bill identifies \$60 billion in unnecessary Pentagon spending which would be transferred to programs in children’s health care, school reconstruction, job training, energy independence, homeland security, medical research, global hunger and deficit reduction. **Do you support the Common Sense Budget Act?**

**I support the Common Sense Budget Act.**

**I oppose the Common Sense Budget Act.**

**Please Explain:**

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**11.)** The United States, as a signer of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has promised to work to reduce its nuclear stockpile. Currently, the United States has thousands of usable nuclear weapons in its arsenal. Many argue that maintaining a stockpile of even 3,500 does more harm to our national security than it deters. Other nations are threatened by our capabilities and are emboldened to begin and grow their own nuclear weapons programs. **How many nuclear weapons do you think the United States needs? Please Explain:**

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**12.)** U.S. intelligence estimates put Iran's ability to make a nuclear bomb at least five to ten years from now. On February 4, 2006, the International Atomic Energy Agency referred Iran to the United Nations Security Council. The Bush administration is pushing for a tough stance in the international community with regard to Iran's domestic uranium enrichment program. Once the Security Council takes up Iran's portfolio, the Bush administration is expected to push for punitive measures such as sanctions or even targeted military air strikes. Iran has already said it will retaliate, possibly militarily, to any punitive measures taken by the Security Council or any nation acting unilaterally. Iran has several such options that would seriously harm the United States. These include: disrupting shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, sabotaging harbor facilities and oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and providing several kinds of military support to the Iraqi insurgency. **Do you support or oppose military action against Iran?**

**I support military action against Iran.**

**I oppose military action against Iran.**

**Please Explain:**

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13.) If offered, would you accept an endorsement from the Peace Action?

**Yes, I would accept an endorsement from Peace Action.**

**No, I would not accept an endorsement from Peace Action.**

14.) If offered, would you accept a contribution from the Peace Action PAC?

**Yes, I would accept a contribution from the Peace Action PAC.**

**No, I would not accept a contribution from the Peace Action PAC.**

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

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Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_