

**Concerned Democrats  
1900 Superior Ave. Suite #221  
Cleveland OH 44114  
www.concerneddemocrats.org**

**October 7, 2008**

**The Honorable FIELD(2) FIELD(3)**

Ohio State Representative

**FIELD(4)**

**FIELD(5)**

Dear Rep. FIELD(3):

We are writing you as Democrats to another Democrat. As the Democratic nominee for the Ohio House of Representatives from your District, you are in a unique position to help Barack Obama and Joe Biden reverse our nation's priorities.

Unfortunately, the combination of the Obama/Biden campaign's practice until very recently of de-emphasizing use of traditional visual materials such as yard signs, bumper stickers and buttons and the natural tendency of local candidates to be focused on their own races has resulted in a repeat in 2008 of what has been a longstanding problem in Democratic campaigns during Presidential years: uneven levels of coordination between local campaigns and the top of the ticket in many areas.

True, there are many areas in Ohio where there is strong support for the top of the ticket and vice versa. That may very well be the case in your area. But we are writing all of the candidates for the Ohio House of Representatives about **the importance of supporting the top of the ticket in very simple ways, such as wearing Obama/Biden buttons, putting Obama/Biden bumper stickers on your car, putting an Obama/Biden sign in your own front yard**, trying to get Obama/Biden yard signs up where your own supporters have yard signs, etc..

Lack of coordination can often have logistical roots. We have found that both incumbent Representatives and non-incumbent House candidates have had some difficulty obtaining materials! **Thus we have formed Concerned Democrats with the simple goal of sending each Ohio House candidate a small number of buttons, bumper stickers and lapel pins for their personal use and distribution.** Enclosed you will find these materials. We are hoping you will use them regularly between now and election day. Your personal use of these materials would send an important message to everyone who sees you that you support the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States of America.

To be frank, however, lack of support for the top of the ticket also has political roots. It has manifested itself most often when there has been a liberal candidate for President, such as in 1972, 1984, and 2004. This year Barack Obama has articulated a uniquely pragmatic point of

view. The release of his Real Leadership for Rural Ohio program, available on our website at <http://www.concerneddemocrats.org>, shows that Barack Obama realizes that the social problems facing rural, suburban and urban American can't be solved in isolation from each other. Senator Obama is **the real maverick in this race**. He has worked successfully across party lines to address nuclear proliferation and other issues. He defied the odds and ran a tough primary campaign during which he and Senator Hillary Clinton made history together. But their efforts and those of their supporters will be nullified if we don't unite to elect Barack Obama as President, Joe Biden as Vice-President, and Congressional and state candidates across this country and state.

This makes it particularly important that all Democratic candidates unite to show the flag for the top of the ticket. That is the best way to build the turnout needed to win up and down the ticket. **Ohio still has one of the country's highest undecided rates according to a recent poll, and many voters are looking for guidance to those persons in public life they know and trust. In your area, that would include you!**

You are in a good position to help voters in your House district realize that Ohio's problems can't be optimally addressed without a change in administration in Washington. **However, if voters don't see consistent and visible evidence of your support for Barack Obama, they may mistakenly conclude that you are actually distancing yourself from the top of the ticket.**

Thank you for hearing our concerns. Please feel free to call us at any time at the below numbers. We will also be trying to reach you about any suggestions you may have for how to improve coordination and generate momentum between now and election day. We will share them with the Democratic Party and the Campaign for Change, although Concerned Democrats does not represent either of these entities. From preliminary conversations, one idea has already arisen, and that is for each candidate to say at every possible opportunity, **"If you are supporting me, I would strongly urge you to also vote for the Obama/Biden ticket on election day."**

One day, years from now, all of us who are active in this election will be asked by people close to us, **"What did you do to help elect Barack Obama as President in 2008?"** As a candidate for the Ohio House of Representatives, you will be able to proudly point to your candidacy and its important contribution to change in our state. We are writing you to ask that you also be able to say that you did whatever was in your power to be help elect Barack Obama and Joe Biden!

Sincerely,

Michael A. Dover, MSW, Ph.D.  
(734)645-6261

Pat Blochowiak, M.D.  
(216)229-9125