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Dear Friend:

I am writing to tell you that I have decided to challenge Heather Wilson for Congress and to ask for your support.

Our nation is alarmingly off track. We went into Iraq based on a series of lies and have become embroiled in a civil war. We have no exit plan and no plan for victory, or even a Presidential description of what constitutes victory.

Heather Wilson continues to march in lock step with George Bush even as our role as a world leader has deteriorated to its lowest point in a century.

Here at home we have seen corporate profits rise like never in our history, while average New Mexicans find it harder and harder to get ahead, much less to pay for things like health care or their kids' college tuition.

And after the parade of ethical lapses that the Bush Administration has visited upon our country, we learn of Heather Wilson's involvement in the US Attorney scandal. Her actions are a slap in the face to all New Mexicans.

I can't let that kind of unethical behavior go unchallenged. Neither should you.

Here is the vision I would offer our nation.

First we need the highest ethical standards in government. This starts with demanding that our leaders tell the truth.

Bush's war in Iraq is a foreign policy disaster. We must undertake creative and genuine diplomatic initiatives with all countries in the region to find a political means to stabilize Iraq. If this means dividing the country into three parts as some have suggested, so be it. But most of all, we must bring our troops home.

We need an Apollo Project for energy independence. I've been involved with renewable energy, particularly solar, since I was an engineering student working on one of the first trans-US solar car races. We must wean ourselves from the foreign oil that fuels hostile governments, global warming, and terrorists. No accomplishment will be a more valuable legacy for our children.

(over, please)



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We must restore fiscal discipline to our federal budget process. President Bush and Heather Wilson have repeatedly chosen to act as if the billions of dollars spent in Iraq should not be part of the budget. There is no excuse for hiding the costs of our policy decisions, nor should we ask our children to bear those costs. I have an eight-month-old son and a four-year-old son. If I applied this dishonest fiscal policy at the family level, I could take out a credit card now, use it to finance my expenses for years and then hand that card over, complete with its unmanageable debt, to my boys when they turn eighteen.

As President of the City Council, I led the fight to raise Albuquerque's minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour. We are the fourth city in the nation to raise the minimum wage above the federal standard. Congress recently voted to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour. That is not enough. I would push for a higher national minimum wage adjusted annually for inflation. I would also stop rewarding companies that move American jobs to low-wage countries.

One of the primary drivers for sending well-paying American jobs to low-wage countries has been our "free trade" policy. NAFTA, CAFTA and SHAFT-YA (ok I made that up, but at least the name is intellectually honest) have been disasters for New Mexico and the nation. They have intensified our border disputes, concentrated pollution, and hurt American jobs. They were no gift to our Mexican neighbors either. If free trade is "free" why has it cost us so many jobs and why does it take a wheelbarrow full of documentation for any free trade agreement? Free trade isn't free, but it's a stunning deal for international corporations.

Finally, I would fight the assault that the Bush administration has waged on the West. I live here because I love blue skies, wide open spaces, and wild country. If you are a hiker, hunter, camper or fisherman, you love New Mexico's wide-open spaces and public lands. I've defended these places for future generations. I played a critical role in the designation of the Ojito Wilderness, directly protected two new Open Space properties in the Sandia Mountains as a City Councilor, and helped pass legislation to protect the Valle Vidal and tens of thousands of acres of other parts of New Mexico from the Bush Administration's predatory policies.

During my tenure in public office I've delivered higher wages, more ethical government, wide-open spaces, and cleaner energy. I would very much appreciate your help in my campaign for Congress.

Respectfully and with thanks,



Martin Heinrich