



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH, NC 27602-2686

MICHAEL F. EASLEY

April 15, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
Obama For America
Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Sen. Obama:

North Carolinians are excited about the opportunity to play a pivotal role in this year's Democratic Presidential primary. During the first four months of this year, more than 75,000 new Democrats and 50,000 unaffiliated voters have registered to vote. These new voters are among the nearly 3.8 million anxious to learn all they can about the issues and choices they face in selecting a Democratic Party presidential nominee.

With the May 6 primary fewer than three weeks away, I encourage you to participate in a debate in North Carolina. By participating in a nationally televised forum you will send a message to these newly registered voters, as well as millions of other North Carolinians, that their vote will count and their voice is being heard.

I understand that CBS has offered to sponsor a debate moderated by Katie Couric and Bob Schieffer on the evening of April 27 in Raleigh at the RBC Center. Your commitment to participate in this event will give North Carolinians their best opportunity to hear you and Sen. Hillary Clinton discuss important issues, from education, our economy and our nation's role in the world, that face our nation today. I am confident that this debate will even further energize and motivate North Carolina's voters to express themselves at the ballot box on May 6.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Easley".

Michael F. Easley