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Abington, Ma. 02351
Monday, August 29, 2005

Congressman William Delahunt
1317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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William Delahunt, MC

Dear Congressman Delahunt,

Summertime and the living is easy. The President is on his ranch in Texas. You folks are away from your offices in Washington, D.C. Gasoline prices are going through the roof. I read that there are adequate supplies. People seem to be concerned about refineries and hurricane weather. Gasoline prices are going through the roof. It seems coincidental that President Bush and Vice President Cheney are oil people. No doubt they are reaping millions while the price of oil goes through the roof. A friend of mine mentioned that when Bill Clinton was President he was putting it to a few people. President Bush is putting to all of us.

The war continues in Iraq. They are working on a constitution. Iraqis are dying. American soldiers are dying. The Iraqi legislature continues to craft a constitution. The various factions have grave differences. They can't seem to reach consensus. People continue to die. We debate here about whether we should pull our troops out of the area or continue to maintain a presence. Congress voted overwhelmingly several years to give the President authority to go into Iraq. There were only a small minority of legislators who opposed the United States sending troops into Iraq.

History is a great teacher. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There was and is no evidence that Saddam Hussein ever conspired with the Al Qaeda terrorists. Are we safer today than we were 4 years ago? Do we have the terrorists on the run? Have we captured Osama Bin Laden and the leadership of Al Qaeda? Our soldiers are being killed on the streets in Iraq. Our soldiers are being maimed and coming less than whole people. This is what Congress voted for, and now we are there. Those of us who are more skeptical believe there was never an exit strategy because there was never going to be an exit from the area.

We are enjoying an economic recovery after several years of an economic bust. The cost of housing has gone through the roof. Many of the new jobs that people can get come without benefits. Pensions and retirement plans have been replaced by 401K plans. Health care is no longer a "given". Some people can get health care coverage, but many workers have no health care plans offered or provided by their employers. Many of us work two jobs to make ends meet. There are many of us who are wealthy. I am sure you know who they are. They have access to you and to other centers of power. Many more of us are getting along. We are not getting ahead, and as costs go up getting along requires more and more cost cutting on our part. You probably don't many of us. We are

busy working and trying to get extra hours to pay for the increases in costs for the items we are accustomed to having.

Where is the leadership? Where are the voices of sanity and reason? Let's talk about an energy bill. Let's talk about changes to Social Security. Let's talk about the Patriot Act and the need to cut back on our civil liberties to keep us safe. Let's talk about Supreme Court nominees and the future of a woman's right to choose. Let's talk about making the tax cuts permanent? Who cares that we have a huge Federal Budget deficit and only four years ago our Federal Budget was balanced?

Several of my friends have asked me about the Democratic Party. Where are they? Have they "caved in"? They have given in to the Republicans. Where are the voices of dissent? Are there no alternative plans to challenge the Republican agenda? What do we stand for? Don't have any ideas or plans that counter what the President and the majority are offering us?

We are a long way from Kansas Toto. Many of the people I talk to grew up under President Kennedy. We listened to Martin Luther King. We were inspired by people like Mahatma Gandhi. Today our religious leaders like Pat Robertson can call for us to assassinate the President of Venezuela because he dares to oppose us. The CIA did kill people and leaders throughout the world, but it was covert. We will never know for sure that the CIA killed leaders we opposed or supported leaders who were willing to carry out our agenda. How the times have changed when a Christian minister can advocate us killing a leader who won't fall into step with our policies.

History will not be kind to us for this period we are living through. You are the leaders who sat back while "Rome burned". We need people of courage and fortitude to stand up and be counted. Our political leaders don't want to rock the boat. Don't challenge the status quo. Senator Kennedy is the only one willing to voice his opposition and point out the "emperor is wearing no clothes". This administration is raping and pillaging like a bunch of thugs controlling a local neighborhood through fear and intimidation. When good people don't speak out and call a spade a spade anarchy results.

We are about making money and protecting the rich. Over the past 25 years we have witnessed the dwindling of the middle class, the working class. We have seen some growth in the wealthy class and a shift from the welfare class to the working poor. The concept of distributive justice has vanished from our consciousnesses. Churches no longer speak about issues of community and togetherness. What chance does democracy have to grow and flourish when money and wealth corrupts the deliberative processes. Our system of checks and balances is not working when the minority have no voice.

Where are the leaders? Where are the people of vision and conviction who think bigger than their own interests and dare to move forward while rooted in our best traditions?

Sincerely,

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