



April 24, 2008

Congressman Bishop:

At this critical juncture in our nation's history, the issues crucial to the United States and Eastern Long Island require our immediate attention. Considering a recent New York Times/CBS News poll that shows 81% of Americans believe their country is on the wrong track, our commitment to addressing these issues must not enjoy the luxury of a summer vacation.

Because of this, as the endorsed Republican candidate for Long Island's First Congressional District and presuming that you will run for reelection in November, I now ask that you to accept my challenge to participate in the first debate of the 2008 election before Memorial Day, May 26.

Instead of today's typical debates, which are basically dueling press conferences, I desire a dynamic exchange where we will actually engage each other. I envision a lively give-and-take that allows us to question one another and actually provide meaningful answers and promote accountability to the taxpayers.

Most importantly, I want to provide our audience with a thought-provoking dialogue. Rather than talking at one another, I want to have a conversation about the issues important to the hardworking men and women of the First C.D.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask for your commitment to a clean race, devoid of the politics as usual that have all too often sullied American campaigns. As exit polling from Pennsylvania showed earlier this week, citizens are growing tired of the negative tactics that interfere with addressing the actual issues.

From hereon, I request that your concerns with our campaign's positions are directed face-to-face, rather than through surrogates who attack my character. The people of the First C.D. deserve a clean race and I ask that any differences of opinion we share focus on the issues, and avoid the character assassination that the Suffolk County Democratic Party leadership has already begun to employ.

I appreciate your timely response.

Long Island's Future Begins Now,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee M. Zeldin", written over a horizontal line.

Lee M. Zeldin,
Father, Husband, Shirley Resident, Army Vet
Endorsed Republican Candidate, NY-1