



Thursday, May 12, 2016

Secretary Hillary Clinton  
Hillary for America  
PO Box 5256  
New York, NY 10185

Senator Bernie Sanders  
Bernie 2016  
PO Box 905  
Burlington, VT 05402

Dear Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders,

As the largest progressive organization in California, we encourage you to use the upcoming California primary to not only focus on the important national issues that have been the hallmarks of your campaigns, but to also address urgent state and local issues that impact our daily lives.

California is the eighth largest economy in the world, yet due to the perceived political leanings of the state and our traditionally late primary, we are often ignored when it comes to national campaigns.

Regardless of whether Californians #FeelTheBern, say #ImWithHer, or are undecided, we expect those seeking to lead our country to pay attention to the critical issues impacting the daily lives of the people who live in the largest and most diverse state in the nation.

During the month between now and the California primary, we encourage you to demonstrate to the people of this state that you understand, care about and will address the local issues we deal with every day.

To that end, we ask you to:

- Visit Porter Ranch, the site of the massive Aliso Canyon gas leak, and Southeast Los Angeles, near Vernon, where the Exide battery plant was located, and explain what you would do to help avoid these monumental examples of environmental injustice. Lax regulations and oversight at Porter Ranch led to California's own Deep Water Horizon-style leak, except the main pollutant here was invisible methane. The Exide battery plant flaunted regulations for years, but the cries of the poor communities of color that lived near it went ignored. Now, there are horrific levels of lead in the soil of their homes and their children's playgrounds, and the government is only now beginning to take adequate action.
- Offer your support to efforts to curb the epidemic of gun violence that continues in our state. California was the site of two of the country's more recent high-profile mass shootings: UC Santa Barbara in 2014 and San Bernardino in 2015. In November, California voters will consider an ambitious ballot measure to begin regulating ammunition on a similar level to guns and the legislature is again

considering a new, loophole-free assault weapons ban, which Governor Brown vetoed in 2014.

- Highlight the devastating impacts of climate change on California's drought, which continues to devastate our state after four straight years -- despite mild relief from El Niño. We also ask that you call out corporate profiteers like Nestlé who continue to exploit our water resources, while children in poor communities like East Porterville are literally drinking from polluted duck ponds.
- Meet with housing advocates to understand the depth of California's housing crisis. Notice that despite our state's progressive reputation, wealth and income disparities are among the highest in the nation, where many low and middle-income Californians spend more than half of their income on rent. Big banks siphoned away our wealth by foreclosing on more homeowners than in any other state, particularly homeowners from communities of color. Discuss the record number of homeless people, particularly in Southern California, and explain to Californians how you will help alleviate the housing crisis.

Addressing these issues in a deep and substantive way will demonstrate to the people of California that the Democratic candidates for President understand the local and statewide issues that affect our lives every day.

What happens in California has wide ranging effects on the nation as a whole. We hope you will take the next month to truly understand our state, our people, and the issues that impact our lives, and join us in building a better, more progressive California and country.

Sincerely,

The 1.3 Million members of Courage Campaign