



Tuesday, 5 October 2004

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Dear Congresswoman Carson,

History has demonstrated the importance of debates to both the democratic process and the direction of public policy. The Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 were held in only Illinois, but the whole world heard the first prominent volley in a war to end slavery. And while the Kennedy-Nixon debates of 1960 made history in their own right, they also, sadly, marked the end of the era of substantive debate. The "debates" made available to candidates today are typically short, pre-scripted, shallow, and worst of all...boring.

This nation can't survive an electorate who's disaffected, uninformed, and bored. So let's make a little history with a rebirth of true political debate through the medium of the Internet.

You have probably heard from the folks at www.printdebate.com, and you may already be familiar with the concept and format.

In summary, it's a non-partisan, fairly moderated debate in which our voters can interact. That, I'm sure you'll agree, is a good thing in this age of sound bites, yard signs and apathy.

By the protocol developed at the Print Debate Center, you have 9 October (four days from today) to respond to this proposal. I'm hoping that you'll accept immediately, of course.

We are both, after all, applying for the important job of 7th district U.S. Representative. We owe it to the voters to have a proper job interview. I eagerly await your timely response. I'm sure that the citizens will eagerly await the opportunity to hear us out.

Respectfully,

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