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United States House of Representatives

1705 Longworth House Office Building

Washington D.C 20515

To the Chief of Staff,

I am writing to express my interest in working as a Congressional Staffer for Alexandria-Ocasio-Cortez. I am well-suited for the role because my prior experience organizing for a progressive environmental campaign and researching policy issues in Northern Virginia have given me in-depth knowledge of campaign work and what people are thinking about specific issues. These experiences inspired to want to work in Washington to help make a difference for more Americans.

As a Campaign Organizing Intern at Environment Virginia, I canvassed in Loudoun County, Virginia to gather petition signatures and handwritten letters that urged Governor Terry McAuliffe to include strong commitments to renewable sources of energy as part of the state’s implementation of the Clean Power Plan. I then phone banked and emailed those who I had met while canvassing to encourage them to volunteer or attend a campaign event. This experience helped me get a better sense of the ways that people want to take action to address climate change and what we can do to find solutions to this highly important problem facing our nation.

Policy research at Serving Virginia allowed me to apply the critical thinking skills I had developed in my Economics and Political Science courses into thinking about practical solutions to policy problems. Each week, I researched a specific policy issue and developed a cost-benefit analysis of possible solutions to the problem. For instance, one of my tasks was to come up with an estimate of the impact of potential marijuana legalization on the state budget. Looking at the data, I estimated that the state could net 75 to 100 million dollars when considering increased tax revenue generated and decreased enforcements costs. These tasks helped me better understand possible solutions to problems that would increase economic opportunity and lead to a more just society for all Americans.

I would like to continue to build upon my experiences working on a campaign and doing policy research as a Congressional staffer. It would be a tremendous privilege to play a small part in working to better the lives of the American people. Please consider placing me on your interview schedule. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Spahr