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Virginia House Democratic Caucus

1021 E. Cary Street Suite 1275

Richmond, VA 23219

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my interest in working as a Press and Research Assistant for the Virginia House Democratic Congress. I am well-suited for the role because my prior experience interning as a campaign organizer and policy researcher have given me a good grasp of the issues that are important to voters in Virginia and the ways that campaigns can make their case to voters in an effective manner.

As a Campaign Organizing Intern at Environment Virginia, I canvassed in Loudoun County 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 gave me an introduction into the difficult choices that campaigns have to make in order to best reach their constituents.

Policy research at Serving Virginia allowed me to apply the critical thinking and writing 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 was tasked with summarizing the problem and explaining my solutions in a weekly deliverable. For instance, one of my tasks was to evaluate the impact of potential marijuana legalization on the state of Virginia. After analyzing case studies from other states, I presented a written deliverable explaining that marijuana legalization would benefit the state because it would lower the costs of drug enforcement, generate tax revenue, and give non-violent drug offenders a more reasonable chance of participating in the state economy. This experience helped me improve my ability to effectively present an argument by stating my case in a clear and concise manner.

I would like to build upon my past experiences in Virginia politics to help Democrats win back the House of Delegates next fall. It would be a tremendous privilege to play a small part in working to better the lives of the Virginian people. Please consider placing me on your interview schedule. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Spahr