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To the Chief of Staff,

I am writing to express my interest in the Legislative Aid position for a member of congress in the New Democratic Coalition. I am well-suited for the role because my prior experience researching policy issues and campaigning in Virginia has given me a good sense of the issues that are important to voters and how we can find common ground on some of those issues.

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 different perspectives that voters in Virginia have regarding how we should address environmental issues and the challenges that policy makers will face when trying to find practical solutions to complex problems.

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 the practical effect of potential legislation when thinking about whether to pursue a policy change.

I would like to continue to build upon my experiences working on a campaign and doing policy research by working for a member of Congress. It would be a tremendous privilege to play a small part in working to better the lives of the American people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Spahr