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Dear fellow Democrat,

As a long time activist for social justice, economic justice and peace, I often search in vain for political leaders who inspire my support. So often in today's political climate, candidates for elected office compromise principles in favor of expediency. The result of this climate is an elected political class that perpetuates the denigration of our constitution, the abuse and exploitation of our fellow humans, and the decline in our civic life. Paul Richmond represents a refreshing exception to this depressing paradigm; and for that reason I am extremely proud to endorse his bid for the Democratic nomination for Congress in Washington's 6th District.

I first encountered Paul Richmond during my time helping to organize protests against the WTO meetings in Seattle in 1999. As a young attorney, Richmond built a reputation for his willingness to wade into conflicts with authority on behalf of protestors, activists and victims of abuse. Since 1999, Richmond has demonstrated - both in the wake of the WTO and on many other occasions - his commitment to the values many of us in the progressive grass-roots of the Democratic Party share. Through his actions and involvement, Richmond has shown his devotion to free speech and civil liberties, the rights of the working class, and peace and justice for all people. I have personally observed his tireless advocacy for fairness and truth. He is a rare breed of candidate.

Often efforts to oppose entrenched political interests can seem futile. "Why bother," I am often asked when I work for causes that require long-term uphill battles. The answer is that I bother for the same reasons Paul Richmond bothers - because we have no other choice. All of us share the responsibility to leave our state, our nation and our world a better place for our children. Every little step we take in the right direction moves us a bit closer to leaving them the world they deserve. Candidates like Paul Richmond - who bring messages of peace, justice and fairness to our political process - serve an extraordinarily valuable purpose in this process of small steps. When I choose whom to support for public office I always consider how I will explain my decisions to my five-year-old daughter once she is old enough to understand our world. I proudly support Paul Richmond for Congress with the firm belief that this decision will be one of the easiest of all for her to understand.

Fellow Democrats, Paul Richmond needs your support. Those of us who share Richmond's belief in a peaceful world, a truly democratic process and a just economic system must seize every opportunity to take those small steps forward. The candidacy of Paul Richmond for Congress provides a chance for each of us to support the values so many of us share. Please join me in donating to and working for Paul Richmond for Congress. Your children will thank you later.

Sincerely,

Jeff Upthegrove  
34<sup>th</sup> District Democratic PCO  
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