



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

August 31, 2007

U.S. Senator Joe Biden
Biden for President
P.O. Box 438
Wilmington, DE 19899

Dear Senator Biden:

As you know, the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules were adopted after an extremely thoughtful, deliberative and inclusive year-long process. My goal as Chairman, and our objective as a Party, is to structure a nominating process that adheres to rules that are clear, straightforward and published. The vast majority of states have complied with these rules.

As the leader of the Democratic Party, I strongly urge you to adhere to the 2008 Delegate Selection Rules.

Last Saturday the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (RBC) met in Washington to consider 33 state delegate selection plans. This consideration of state plans is an important part of the RBC's oversight of the delegate selection process.

While 32 other state plans were reviewed, considerable attention has been paid to the Committee's decision to find Florida's 2008 Delegate Selection Plan in Non-Compliance. That is understandable.

I am writing because I think it is very important that the Committee's action and its effects are clearly understood.

Florida's Plan provides for a January 29, 2008 primary date. That date, seven days before the start of the official window on February 5, 2008, violates Rule 11.A., one of the fundamental rules of the nominating process: the rule on timing. The 2008 Delegate Selection Rules adopted by the full DNC at its August 2006 meeting in Chicago clearly provide that only 4 states – Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina – may hold their respective contests prior to February 5, 2008. The RBC's finding of Non-Compliance included a 100% loss of pledged and unpledged delegates, **if** the Florida Democratic Party does not submit a corrected and compliant Plan within 30 days of their receipt of the official notice that their plan is not in compliance.

Again, as candidates seeking the nomination, I strongly urge you to do your part and support the actions of the Rules and Bylaws Committee. The RBC did one thing on Saturday: enforced the Party's rules.

As the work of the DNC and the RBC continues in the future, I will continue to be in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor Howard Dean, M.D.
Chairman

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