

March 4, 2003

Harris Wofford
Co-Chair, America's Promise
909 North Washington St., Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-1556

Dear Senator Wofford:

On behalf of the governors of 13 states and Puerto Rico, I would like to invite you to give a keynote address at a pivotal conference on leadership and citizen engagement in the South. The conference, scheduled for June 1-3, 2003, in Biloxi, Mississippi, will attract some 400 of the South's top leaders from the worlds of business, academia and public service.

This conference will explore leadership issues that are critical in bringing about positive change in our states and communities, including the importance of developing a sense of civic responsibility among our youth. Your experiences, including your leadership roles with both the Corporation for National and Community Service and America's Promise, provide you with a unique perspective on leadership and citizen engagement issues. Your well-deserved reputation for leadership will also give this topic the prominence it deserves. I know our region's public and private leaders would warmly receive your insights.

The conference is being organized by the Southern Growth Policies Board, for which I serve as chairman. Southern Growth, which was formed by the Southern governors in 1971, is a nonprofit, interstate compact composed of governors, legislators and citizen representatives from each of its member jurisdictions. Its mission is to help improve the economy and quality of life in the South through dialog and collaboration among a wide cross-section of the region's policy and program leaders. (See www.southern.org.)

For additional information on the conference, please contact Jim Clinton, Southern Growth's executive director, at (919) 941-5145 or jclinton@southern.org. I would be grateful if you would be part of this historic and exciting meeting on the future of the South and look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

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RM:klr

