



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 20, 2010

Honorable Timothy Kaine, Chairman  
Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Governor Kaine:

Thank you for inviting Philadelphia to bid to host the 2012 Democratic National Convention. I appreciate your interest in Philadelphia and encouragement as we considered the opportunity to host this important national event. There is no doubt that Philadelphia's rich history, cultural vitality, diverse communities, and growing population would provide an ideal backdrop for the Democratic Party's convention in 2012.

The decision to bid for the 2012 Democratic National Convention, however, merited careful analysis of both the benefits and the costs associated with such an event. For us, the opportunity for leaders and stakeholders from across the region to collaborate on a massive national event would be a unifying civic endeavor. Additionally, the influx of visitors, national media spotlight, and the positive narrative to be told about Philadelphia's history and vibrancy were all factors weighed as we carefully considered hosting this event.

As you know, such an effort will not come without significant costs, including financial obligations to be incurred by the city, impact on local residents and businesses, and diversion of attention and resources from key initiatives of my administration. After studying the impact of the 2000 RNC in Philadelphia, and subsequent political conventions in Boston, New York City, Denver and St. Paul, against the backdrop of the difficult economic environment we are currently managing and enhanced security requirements post-9/11, our analysis suggests the costs associated with preparing for and hosting the 2012 DNC are important not to overlook.


Given the extraordinary economic challenges we are facing and our continued focus on our current city priorities, we have concluded that now is not the right time for Philadelphia to bid on a national political convention.

In weighing this decision, my office has been in close communication with our key local stakeholders - Governor Ed Rendell, Congressman Robert A. Brady, Chairman of the Philadelphia Democratic Party, David L. Cohen, Chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, as well as leaders from the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, Center City District, and organizers of the Philadelphia's 2000 Republican National Convention.

We agree that Philadelphia is an ideal convention city and should play host to another national political convention. So, we want to take this opportunity to commit to being first in line to bid on the 2016 Democratic National Convention. We are preparing to convene a task force to fully assess hosting a political convention in 2016, when the economic climate, and with it, the capacity for public investment and appetite for corporate sponsorship, improves. A long term planning process would ensure that we not only plan for those financial and logistical challenges, but also maximize the positive local impact by building a plan for how a 2016 convention could leverage economic development across the city and region.

Thank you again for identifying Philadelphia's as a desirable potential convention host for a Democratic national convention. I wish you the best with your 2012 site selection process and look forward to our continued partnership and discussion as we approach the 2016 Democratic convention. Please be in touch if you have any questions regarding this matter, or if I can, in any way, be of assistance to you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. Nutter", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael A. Nutter  
Mayor

cc: Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Congressman Robert Brady  
David L. Cohen, Chairman, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce  
Tom Muldoon, President, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Meryl Levitz, President & CEO, Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation