



## REMARKS FOR THE WESTERN CAUCUS CONFERENCE

21 AUGUST 2004

I wanted to thank all of you being here this morning. We are standing at ground zero of the 2004 Presidential campaign. Whether you live in my home state of Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, or any of our Western states, we may very well determine the next President of the United States.

John Kerry is poised to win in almost every one of these states because, after four years of Bush-Cheney's policies of pessimism and fear, he is the only candidate who offers America a vision of a more hopeful future. All you have to do is ask one question of any of your neighbors and you will understand why John Kerry is our next president. It's a simple question, but one that gets to the heart of the Bush Administration's failed policies. It captures the uncertainty, the retreats, the disappointments that have marked the current White House.

Are you better off than you were four years ago?

Answer it yourselves right here today. Are you better off than you were four years ago?

That's right the answer is a resounding "no!"

Well, George W. Bush wants you to believe that you're wrong. He'd like you to think that America is on the right track. How? He says, look at the results. In fact his newest campaign slogan – I think it's his ninth if that's any indication – is "results matter." I think it's a great slogan and a great suggestion. So, let's look at the results of four years of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

In 2000, George Bush promised quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Yet under his Administration, health care costs have spiraled out of control, increasing at a rate of more than 10 percent each year and drug company profits have exploded. Thanks to these high costs, over 40 million Americans, including nearly 10 million Westerners, have no health insurance.

In response to the skyrocketing drug costs, the Bush-Cheney Administration promised to create a plan to help pay for seniors' prescription drugs. Yet the poorest 6 million American seniors will face substantially higher drug costs and millions more will receive no benefits. In the West, over 1.1 million seniors are worse off under the Bush Medicare Prescription Plan.

**YES PRESIDENT BUSH (pause)**

**RESULTS MATTER**

George Bush promised to improve our environment by cutting air pollution from power plants by 70-percent cut over the next 15 years. But the centerpiece of their so-called Clear Skies program allows the dirtiest power plants to pump millions more tons of pollution into our skies. Thanks to the Bush-Cheney gutting of our clean air protections, in California at Kings-Sequoia Canyon National Parks, air quality monitors have found ozone levels that exceed those in Los Angeles.

**YES PRESIDENT BUSH**

**RESULTS MATTER**

President Bush promised to make educating every child his top domestic priority and reform a school system that has failed our nation's most needy students. Yet he has consistently underfunded his ill-conceived No Child Left Behind Act. As a result, more than 4.6 million of our nation's most needy children have, in fact, been left behind.

**YES PRESIDENT BUSH**

**RESULTS MATTER**

In response to the recession that began in 2001, or to the terrorist attack of 9/11 or to the budget surplus we inherited – the story keeps changing – George Bush pushed through more than \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts for the ultra rich. Because of this, 32 states have had to raise their taxes by \$16.2 billion to make up for the shortfall. As a result, a number of governments face bankruptcy, forcing state and local governments to lay off police officers, fire fighters, teachers, and other critical workers. The federal budget has gone \$400 million surplus to a multi-trillion dollar deficit, according to the figures just released by the White House, with deficits as far as the eye can see. Nationally, this slump has cost us nearly 3 million private sector jobs – including a loss of 500,000 jobs in the West. This is the worst job creation record since Herbert Hoover.

## YES PRESIDENT BUSH

### RESULTS MATTER

If all of these results were not enough for you, if you still felt that you should give the President the benefit of the doubt, there's one more result that matters. In March 2003, George W. Bush and Dick Cheney went to war with Iraq because, the President asserted, Saddam Hussein possessed large stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and had close ties to al Qaeda. Less than two months later, standing under a banner proclaiming "Mission Accomplished," George Bush declared the war over. Now, in August 2004, we have still not found one weapon of mass destruction in Iraq, one precursor, one piece of evidence Saddam had any WMD. Almost 1,000 Americans have been killed and continue to die. More than 4,000 have been wounded. The war continues.

## YES PRESIDENT BUSH

### RESULTS MATTER.

So, when the Bush-Cheney campaign tells you results matter, you better believe them. But do not fear for our country. Simply judge John Kerry and John Edwards by the same standard. Look at their record of accomplishment in Vietnam, as a prosecutor and as United States Senators. For results do matter and after four years of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney's policies, Americans are thirsting for a change. That change begins here, with us, today and will sweep the West and the United States for John Kerry and John Edwards. And

on November 2, as John Kerry strides to the podium as the next President of the United States, the one phrase that George Bush will hear ringing in his ears is:

**RESULTS MATTER!**