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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CONSERVATION, RESEARCH,
AND BIOTECHNOLOGY;
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES,
RISK MANAGEMENT AND CREDIT;
COMMODITY MARKETS, DIGITAL ASSETS,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER
TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

September 3, 2026

Dear Colleague,

I write to formally announce my candidacy for New Democrat Coalition (NDC) Chair and to ask for your support. As the current Vice Chair for Policy and former Freshman Leadership Representative, I've been honored to serve as a member of New Dems leadership for two cycles, and I am confident I can lead us into what will be a consequential next chapter.

Since arriving in Congress, being a New Dem has been my proudest identity. I've had a front-row seat to New Dems growing into the most powerful ideological caucus on Capitol Hill, largely because our Members are laser-focused on getting things done. It is this commitment to pragmatic progress, and the role we will play as the members of the Democratic Caucus who will be responsible for making the Democratic majority, that makes me confident that our future is bright.

After we take back the House and vote to make Leader Jeffries the first Black Speaker in our nation's history, the American people will be looking for answers on how we will make their lives better. The answer is clear – New Dems need to champion an affordability agenda that proves Democrats can deliver for working families. Relentlessly focusing on lowering costs and providing tangible results to show for that work is how we build credibility, regain the trust of the People, and ensure we can sustain a lasting majority for Congresses to come.

There is no doubt that this Administration and the Republican majority have been a disaster. I was tremendously proud that through my work as Vice Chair of Policy we stepped up and took action – developing our Working Group structure to bring members together, identifying the mistakes this Administration was making, and, most importantly, putting forward solutions. Rather than simply pointing out what was going wrong, we focused on what we could do to make a difference for working families – bringing forward real, practical ideas to lower costs and improve people's lives.

Through our policy vertical, we put out 11 comprehensive frameworks. As this work developed, I decided we should take it "On the Road" to our communities so our members could hear directly from folks across the country on what was most important. Thanks to many of our colleagues, 13 events were hosted on every working group topic. Our goal was to illustrate that New Dems have a clear idea of what we are FOR – and while we continue to do everything and

anything to hold this administration accountable – we are prepared on Day 1 to act and deliver immediate relief on key economic issues.

With the advent of Leader Jeffries affordability groups, I am proud to report that House Leadership also agrees on these cost drivers, and New Dems stand ready to ensure that the public sees Democrats as being uniquely qualified to answer these questions and deliver results.

In addition to my policy work, I have also been putting in the work toward building the largest majority possible to execute this mission. I've traveled to four competitive Red to Blue districts to join candidates for fundraisers, rallies, and voter engagement events. I've raised \$2.5 million for the DCCC this cycle, exceeding my \$750,000 goal as Labor Co-Chair. I am also proud to be named one of a small group of Majority Makers who exceeded their DCCC dues target, the only Frontliner from last cycle to do so. I've also raised and contributed nearly \$700,000 directly to Frontline and Red to Blue Candidates endorsed by New Dem Action Fund. Lastly, outside of Chair Schneider, I have earned more than 450 points in terms of our coalition's engagement metrics, reflecting time I've spent meeting candidates, attending events to support our colleagues, and efforts to continue to build the reach of New Dems' entire fundraising apparatus.

I committed to these activities wholeheartedly because I believe deeply in New Dems' mission. And once our robust majority is in place, my primary goals as chair will be twofold. First, I will increase capacity on both our official and unofficial sides to protect our incumbent members. This will involve ensuring that, through our member services, we are providing tools to offices that will achieve their goals, whether legislatively, in the communications space, or politically. By developing our relationships with key ecosystem partners like ReNew Democracy Foundation and the Effective Governing Coalition, we can amplify and expand the work of members as we continue to build New Dems into a national brand and work tirelessly to make sure all of our members return for the 121st Congress.

Second, I believe we will achieve historic success on November 4th, and this will set up the mission of delivering for our Frontline Members in particular. Our path to the majority means New Dems will win in competitive districts all around the country, in areas where President Trump was quite successful in 2024. My commitment as your chair will be to set these New Dems up for complete success, including in assisting with legislative wins they can champion back in their districts. We will force Republicans to put their money where their mouths are, and ultimately show the American people we are the adults in the room – committed to real results. I am confident it's how we will maintain these seats in the years to come.

My ability to put together a winning strategy for New Dems, both on the House Floor and on the Action Fund side, is why I believe I will meet the moment as your next chair. Chair Schneider has set us on a tremendous path to be the Majority Makers, and I commit to you that we will have a coalition focused on member services that will see that through.

In the weeks ahead, I hope to have the opportunity to speak with each of you to hear from you about your ideas for the future of New Dems and to earn your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my Chief of Staff, John Lee, at john.lee3@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki Budzinski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nikki Budzinski

Member of Congress

Vice Chair of Policy, New Democrat Coalition