August 20, 2007

Dear Edna,

The campaign for President has started earlier and has become far more intense faster than any one expected. Our campaign has been filled with excitement and energy, and we have made some amazing progress.

The importance of early supporters has never been greater. And that is why I am writing to you today to tell you how critical your active participation is in, what I believe is, one of the most important campaigns of our lives.

I know we all agree on one thing. America is ready for a change. After six years of George Bush, I think we all know we need to restart the 21st Century. But, turning America away from the disasters of the Bush years is, of course, only half the battle. America's new President has to renew our country's spirit and lead the way in meeting the big challenges ahead of us.

I believe not only that America is ready for change but also that I am ready to lead that change.

I have devoted my whole life to trying to help change people's lives for the better. I am ready to bring the kind of leadership that will get things done. From bringing the right end to the war in Iraq and restoring respect for America around the world to ensuring universal health care coverage to all Americans to making us energy independent and free of foreign oil, I am running a campaign of ideas and change, but I am going to need you by my side every step of the way during this campaign.

And, if I may be so bold, let me add this: If you are planning on supporting me, I really need you to support me now.

The upcoming primary elections and caucuses will be a fundamentally different election than in other years.

We are less than five months away from over half of Democratic voters — 65 million people — voting for the next presidential nominee, starting with the Iowa caucus and culminating on February 5th, when Democrats in 24 states go to the polls.

No other primary campaign in history has involved so many voters in so short of a time.

On February 5th, more than 50% of the delegates needed will have been determined by delegate-rich states like California, New York, Florida and Michigan who are holding their primaries on that date.

In other words, when this election starts, it is going to start at a breakneck pace.

In the upcoming months, we must have strong operations on the ground in all of these states to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

And that is why I am writing to you today to ask you for your support. Our campaign needs your financial support to build and expand our field programs in these early primary states, a larger number of key states than we originally expected.

(over, please)
Contributions to Hillary Clinton for President Exploratory Committee are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Contributions to Hillary Clinton for President Exploratory Committee are subject to the prohibitions and limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act. This law prohibits contributions from corporations, national banks, labor organization treasury funds, federal government contractors, and foreign nationals who are not admitted for permanent residence. All individual contributions must be made from personal funds and may not be reimbursed by another person. Credit card contributions must be made using the personal credit card of the individual contributor (or spouse/joint account holder) and not with a credit card issued to any other person, business or organization. Contributions to the Committee are limited to $2,300 per election by individuals (the primary and general are separate elections), and $5,000 per election by federal multicandidate political action committees.

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed $200 in an election cycle.

Given the intensity of the Democratic competition, we must be ready to win. From targeting and contacting the maximum number of voters possible to getting our message out on the air, it will be incredibly expensive because there are so many big states holding their primaries in such a short period of time.

Your support will make a difference. It will help us have our campaign up and running early in as many states as possible.

I truly appreciate you taking the time to let me make as clear and compelling a case as possible for your active participation in our history-making campaign.

If I have persuaded you to support my campaign, I hope you will take the important step of demonstrating that support with a generous donation right now. Your gift of $25, $35, $50 or as generous an amount as you can spare will play a critical role in setting the stage for victory.

I know how much we can achieve working together, and I thank you in advance for joining with me on the remarkable journey we have ahead of us.

Sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton