



# STATE OF UTAH

SPENCER J. COX  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 14, 2024

President Trump,

My wife Abby and I watched in disbelief as we saw the images of the attack on your life. The sound of the gunshots. Your hand to your face. The Secret Service agents surrounding you. And then you stood again and raised your fist to the air. The flag waving in the background. In that moment you represented the best of America at one of our very worst times. Bloodied but not bowed. Courage—literally—under fire.

As important as that immediate reaction was, I was even more impressed with the statements that you and Melania made afterwards. There was strength in those words, and also humility. It was a side of you most of us have not seen, and it gave so many of us tremendous hope for the future of our country.

I want you to know that I truly believe that God had a hand in saving you. I don't know what it feels like to be less than an inch away from certain death. I also hesitate to even imagine what would have happened to our country if your life had not been miraculously spared. I worry that we would have experienced the unthinkable.

In these dark times it would be easy—and justified—to lash out. To return hate with hate and violence with violence.

And yet, I'm reminded of the words of our Savior Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:45, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." And then, as he hung on the cross between two common thieves, the greatest man to ever live, the literal Son of God, said, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

Your life was spared. Now, because of that miracle, you have the opportunity to do something that no other person on earth can do right now: unify and save our country. I fear that America is on the precipice of unmitigated disaster. We need to turn down the temperature and find ways to come together again before it's too late. As Melania so eloquently said, "Dawn is here again. Let us reunite. Now. [A]scend above the hate, the vitriol, and the simple-minded ideas that ignite violence." And as you said so powerfully, "In this moment, it is more important than ever that

we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win.”

Again, I humbly submit that you, and I sincerely mean this — only you — can make that happen.

Mr. President, I know we have some differences and you probably don't like me much. And that's OK. I get it. I'm not writing this letter looking for a position in your Cabinet or a role on your team. But I have loved so many of your policies and firmly believe that our country has suffered over the last four years due to a lack of leadership and is in desperate need of change. I have told everyone that you are going to win the state of Utah and you are going to win the presidency again. You don't need my help and support to do that.

However, you have a chance to do something that people have said is impossible. You have a chance to build a coalition of support that our country has not seen since Ronald Reagan. And you don't have to compromise on a single conservative policy in order to do it. By treating President Biden with basic human dignity and respect and by emphasizing unity rather than hate, you will win this election by an historic margin and become one of our nation's most transformational leaders. By extending an olive branch to voters who are open to persuasion and ignoring the extremists, you can solidify a legacy as one of the most important presidents in our nation's 250-year history. You can make your success, in leading our country to a new era of peace, unity, and prosperity, the greatest way to silence your critics.

I believe in our better angels, Mr. President, and I believe you are capable of being that kind of leader for this troubled nation. It is a huge burden to be placed on any person, but I want you to know that I pledge my support and I know that millions of others will rally to that kind of leadership.

Thank you again for being a fighter and a survivor. Our country is on the verge of being torn apart. I pray we can avoid any more senseless violence and loss of life. We truly need a Lincoln to bring us together. Indeed it was Lincoln who said, “Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?” You, and only you, can be that kind of leader for us today.

As you find your way past this horrible attack, I will do my best to help and support you. Abby and I are praying hard for you, Melania, and your entire family. We are lucky to live in the greatest country on earth. Thank you again for serving. May God bless you and your family. And may God bless the United States of America.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "C".

Spencer J. Cox