



Commission on Presidential Debates  
1200 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Box 445  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Commission on Presidential Debates:

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce would like to express its full support for the application by West Virginia University and West Virginia State University to host a Presidential or Vice-Presidential Debate in 2016. These two land grant institutions are an ideal team to host such an event, and the proposed location at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in Charleston, West Virginia would serve as an excellent forum for the candidates to debate.

Presidential and vice-presidential debates help promote the cities and universities in which they are held by providing exposure to a national audience. Hosting a debate at the Clay Center would not only provide national exposure to the City of Charleston, West Virginia State University and West Virginia University, but to the Mountain State as a whole. As many may remember, West Virginia's electoral votes decided a close 2000 election between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences is the ideal location to host a national debate. Located only minutes away from Yeager Airport, it is easily accessible for candidates, their staff and the media. Due to Charleston's location, local media coverage would be expected from West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio.

The West Virginia Chamber congratulates both West Virginia University and West Virginia State University for beginning the dialogue on this topic. We believe no better location could be found to host one of the Presidential or Vice-Presidential debates and strongly encourage you to select the Clay Center in Charleston.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Roberts  
President, West Virginia Chamber of Commerce