

WALTER F. MONDALE
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May, 2006

I am proud to endorse Tim Walz in his bid to represent the people of southern Minnesota in the United States Congress.

Minnesota's 1st Congressional District is a place that is very dear to my heart. Born and raised in the district, the education and support I received there prepared me for and propelled me into public service. The people of southern Minnesota are independent, hardworking, patriotic people. We show our dedication to community and country time and again by being careful stewards of our resources and by serving each other and our nation.

Tim Walz embodies these principles that are the backbone of Minnesota's 1st Congressional District. Minnesota has one of the best public education systems in the country due to our top-notch teachers. The winner of the Minnesota Ethics in Education award and the Minnesota Teacher of Excellence award, Tim Walz has been honored by his colleagues, peers and students as the best of the best in public education. Tim Walz is a populist who left the family farm to serve his country in the military. After years of service in the National Guard and in our public schools he is again answering the call to serve the people of southern Minnesota in the United States Congress.

Having served in, worked with and written about the United States Congress, I am sad to say that today's members are not taking seriously the role of the Congress. Today's Congress acts as a rubberstamp for the wishes of the Bush Administration, fast tracking even the most controversial legislation and failing at their primary obligation to be accountable to the people of this country. Tim Walz's opponent is a poor steward for southern Minnesota – he fails time and again to fight for the interest of the voters. It is time the people of southern Minnesota hold him accountable for being a rubberstamp instead of a Representative.

A populist in the truest sense of the word, Tim Walz reminds me of my dear friends the late Vice President Hubert Humphrey and the late Senator Paul

Wellstone. He shares not just their commitment to social justice and servant leadership, but also their sincerity and integrity. I am endorsing Tim Walz because I know with certainty he will carry forward their commitment to improving the lives of people and will take seriously the responsibility of the Congress to be accountable to the people's interests, not the special interests. Tim Walz has proven himself to be a good steward for our resources – in the classroom he has been the steward for our children, our most valuable resource and in the National Guard he was the steward of our freedom.

Tim Walz will be the independent leader Minnesota's 1st Congressional District needs and deserves. Please join me in helping my friend, Tim Walz become the steward southern Minnesota needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Mondale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Former United States Vice President Walter Mondale