

March 21, 2006 PRESS RELEASE

PORTER REponds TO PUNDITS

“I have received so much conflicting advice,” said Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 3rd district of Pennsylvania in a press release today, “that I think I should respond publicly to all the pundits.

“The advice given me ranges from all-out attacks on my opponent to the simple presentation of my own platform, and everything in between. Ultimately, I must obey my own conscience and rely on my own judgment, so here is what I think.

“To accurately report on Mr. English’s record is NOT an attack. It is important that voters be reminded that Mr. English told them he would abide by a self-imposed 12-year term limit, that he would support the importation of cheaper prescription drugs from Canada, and that he would vote against CAFTA. The voters have a right to know that in each of these cases he broke his word. Playing it straight with people is important.

“I think Mr. English’s not taking a public stand on the privatization of Social Security or the Dubai ports deal is also important because the public looks to Congress for leadership, not for the expediency of ducking major issues.

“I think it is important for voters to know about Mr. English’s paid foreign trips and hefty special interest contributions because they speak to the question of who he is likely to consider first, the lobbyists or the people.

“It’s important for the voters to know that Mr. English delights in castigating his opponents because he has little positive to run on. Voters need to realize that he diverts their attention from his record by unfairly vilifying his opponents. I fully expect him to do this again to me. I hope I am wrong, but I expect it.

“But it is **ALSO** important to present the public with my own platform, a positive agenda of what I will do for the people of this district and the nation when I get to Congress.

“For all the reasons above, I will continue to speak out when I think the Bush-Cheney administration or Mr. English are wrong, **AND** I will continue to send to the press and the public my own positions on the issues I consider to be of critical importance as well as the hot-button issues on which Mr. English has in the past misrepresented my ideas.

“Position papers on these issues are attached to this release. Finally, I invite the voters to meet and talk to me whenever I appear in public. I will be speaking at the Mercer Grange on the evening of March 25th and at Temple B’nai Abraham in Butler on the 31st.”