

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

(202) 225-2011

April 17, 2010

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CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY
REGULATION, HEALTH CARE AND TRADE

Ms. Jean Wallace
Academic Director and CEO
Green Woods Charter School
8480 Hagys Mill Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128-1938

Dear Ms. Wallace and Members of the Green Woods Charter School Community,

It is my honor to share my thoughts with the Green Woods Charter School as you begin your day of service.

The Green Woods Charter School's rigorous academic curriculum and dedication to experiential learning provides its students with a unique educational opportunity. I am certain that your actions today and throughout the year create a strong foundation of community involvement and environmental awareness that your students will build upon throughout their lives.

Through my service in the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Primary, and Secondary Education, I am committed to building a system in which our schools provide a more well-rounded educational experience for American children. As a co-sponsor of H.R. 2054, the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009, I believe that an appreciation for our environment and the problems facing it must be a component of a holistic education.

The United States can no longer afford to treat environmental education as optional. Across the globe, problems caused by climate change, pollution, and resource depletion are becoming increasingly acute. This is the legacy that is confronting you and your day of service is an exceptional example of engaging those problems in a positive and constructive way.

As the father of a nine year old daughter, I have additional motivation to support your wonderful work. Her future, and that of your outstanding students, will only be as bright as their education allows.

Thank you for your creative and inspiring approach to learning on Earth Day and every day.

Sincerely,



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress