

June 3, 2009

Mr. John Connolly
Executive Director
Institute for Public Dialogue
2310 Marinship Way, #16
Sausalito, California 94965

Dear John,

I am intrigued and excited about the new concept for public diplomacy your organization has outlined in its proposal for "Public Talks." As the modern use of technology in communication and the mass media evolves, the practice of diplomacy and conflict resolution along with mediation and negotiation has remained relatively the same for decades. Perhaps it's time to re-examine the way we conduct diplomacy.

As a foreign policy practitioner, my work has led me to Japan as an International Affairs Fellow for the Council of Foreign Relations where I worked as a consultant to one of Japan's major political parties from 2005-2007. As North Korea's saber rattling increases, national security issues in Northeast Asia become even more relevant. The on again off again nature of the Six Party Talks demonstrate how difficult it can be to bring conflicting parties to productive negotiations under traditional means.

Now as a candidate for Governor of New Mexico, I am concerned with our border with Mexico. It is important the U.S. keep its friendly relationship with Mexico, but crime and immigration issues along the border are of significant concern among the people in my state. Your new methods and techniques of negotiation may help calm potential misunderstandings between the U.S. and Mexico in the future. It also helps me as a candidate to be informed of the latest policy development in this arena.

I believe this concept of Public Dialogues deserves a thorough examination by our policy makers in Washington, the media, academia and think tanks. It has the potential to be a valuable diplomatic tool. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Turner
President
DW Turner