



AN OPEN LETTER TO MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS AND CHRISTINA BOHANNAN

Date: August 31, 2026

To: Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks & Professor Christina Bohannon

From: Michael Bridgford, Independent Candidate for U.S. Congress (IA-01)

Subject: Iowa PBS Debate for the People of Iowa's 1st District

Representative Miller-Meeks and Professor Bohannon,

Across all 20 counties of Iowa's First Congressional District, families are facing real challenges. Grocery prices are too high, our rural hospitals are struggling, AI data centers are a growing issue, and our independent farmers are waiting on a Farm Bill that puts family farms ahead of corporate monopolies.

Iowans deserve to hear how each of us plans to address these and other pressing issues facing our great state. More importantly, they deserve to hear it directly from us, unscripted, and in a neutral setting.

As you know, Iowa PBS has extended formal invitations to the general election debate for our district, having established fair, non-partisan criteria for candidate participation. I have officially accepted Iowa PBS's invitation.

Today, I am publicly calling for both of you to join me in accepting the Iowa PBS debate invitation.

Every election cycle, out-of-state special interests flood our television stations with tens of millions of dollars in attack ads. We are all thoroughly exhausted by this status quo. A televised debate on public television gives our constituents what commercials never can: an in-depth, transparent conversation about the important issues we face.

Participating in a debate is the bare minimum we owe to the people we seek to represent. Regardless of their party affiliation, our constituents deserve the opportunity to see us side-by-side before casting their ballots this November.

I look forward to your prompt acceptances, and to a robust, civil, and constructive debate on Iowa PBS.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Bridgford".

Michael Bridgford

Independent Candidate for U.S. Congress (IA-01)