As a former Nebraskan, who is currently a faculty member at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I had the privilege of writing a piece about Bob Kerrey when he was a candidate for the United States Senate three years ago. I attested that he was a stellar instructor when he served as guest professor on our campus in 1987. I also affirmed that I was thoroughly convinced that, once elected, he would bring distinction to his work in the Senate.

It is too early to make predictions about the upcoming contest for the Presidency. Without question, the race will require enormous energy and unswerving dedication. But I write out of the same confident spirit.

Bob Kerrey is well qualified. He has a clear mind and a good heart. He learns quickly and he learns well. He is a compassionate human being who is also uncommonly disciplined on behalf of conviction and virtue. He will help Americans rediscover our sense of purpose and well-being in ways that are positive, constructive and unifying. And he will know how to return the nation's domestic and foreign agendas to balance.

I have always been proud to be a Nebraskan, for I know its way of life to be trustworthy. Thus, I will be swelling with pride in the days ahead. I am certain that Bob Kerrey will address the current challenge with courage and wisdom.

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The stakes this time are even higher. Without question, the race will require enormous energy and unswerving dedication. But I write out of the same confident spirit.

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I have always been proud to be a Nebraskan, for the way of life it fosters is thoroughly trustworthy. I am immensely proud at this moment for I am certain that Bob Kerrey will address the current challenge with extraordinary courage and wisdom.