**Adam Edelen – Candidate for Governor**

1. **What sets you apart from the other candidates?**

While beating Matt Bevin is important, I’m also running a campaign with a real vision and plan to build a modern Kentucky where you can live your version of the American dream no matter where you were born, what color your skin is, who your parents are, or who you love.

What sets me apart is not limited to my vision – it includes my unique background as the only candidate who can go toe to toe with Matt Bevin on corruption and job creation. While other candidates have their top officials sitting in federal prison, I’ve sent crooked public officials to federal prison while also exposing hundreds of millions in misused funds at Kentucky agencies and schools. And while Matt Bevin continues to announce economic development projects that fail to materialize, I’m leading project to build the largest solar development in our Commonwealth’s history, that will create jobs for hundreds of out of work coal miners.

If you want a candidate with a real future-focused vision who’s running on more than the tired policies of the past thirty years, and a candidate who can beat Bevin on the issues that matter most, I hope to have your support.

1. **What will you do about the rising cost of healthcare?**

We need a governor who’s committed to health care access for every Kentuckian, and who understands that accessibility must also include affordability. As the state auditor who oversaw the rollout of Medicaid expansion and the affordable care act exchange in Kentucky while also investigating rural hospitals, I have more hands-on experience in Kentucky’s health system than anyone else running.

Firstly, I’ve opposed the Bevin administrations dangerous and cruel proposed Medicaid changes ever since he announced them. Stripping coverage from Kentuckians is the last thing we should do as we aim to keep our families healthy and build a stronger economy.

Second, I’ll support a reformed health care tax and assessment system that levels the playing field for all providers, provides more funding for Medicaid, and helps bring costs down across the board.

Finally, I’m committed to investing in preventative medicine, public and community health efforts, and drug treatment that will bring down costs. By ensuring that regular preventative screenings are free or low-cost, taking clear steps to prevent disease, and providing treatment options that help end addiction, we can bring down long-run costs for both privately and publicly insured Kentuckians.

1. **How are you going to bring Kentucky into the future?**

For too long we’ve been focused on an outdated version of economic development in which we try to make ourselves the cheapest state to do business. Families across the state have seen what this has done, with the fall of unions, stagnant wages, and fewer opportunities in forgotten places across Kentucky.

Not only have these jobs failed to provide the wage increases we need, but many of them are threatened by automation over the coming decades.

I’m committed to a new economic development strategy that both brings Kentucky into the 21st century and aligns us with the future. The first step is making sure that every single Kentuckian has access to quality broadband internet. It means creating main streets and downtowns everywhere that foster entrepreneurship and business growth. And it means acknowledging that we have more jobs and development to gain by accepting that climate change is real than denying it. Finally, I’ll work to make sure that the degrees and education needed to prepare for our future aren’t out of reach for any Kentuckian who’s willing to devote themselves to learning and creating opportunity for themselves.

1. **How do you plan on addressing income inequality in Kentucky?**

First, I’ll tell you what I won’t do: I will not pursue an economic development strategy focused on driving down wages and cutting unions off at the knees. And I won’t support regressive tax reforms that place increasing burdens on poor and middle-class Kentuckians while cutting taxes on big businesses and the rich by millions.

But I’m also fully committed to positive steps to increase wages for Kentuckians and close income gaps. I’ll embrace a living wage so that a single mom who has kids to feed isn’t coming home with $7.25 an hour. I’ll enact policies to put an end to wage theft, when wealthy employers literally steal earned wages from their employees. And I’ll make sure that further education, whether through apprenticeships and job training, at our technical schools, or at one of Kentucky’s four-year universities is within reach for every family.

1. **What are your goals if elected?**

My goal is to work with Kentuckians to build a state that is ready for the future, that values its people, and that provides real opportunity for everyone. While undoing the damage of the Bevin administration is critical, that cannot be our next governor’s primary focus. I’ll be working every single day to create 21st-century opportunities, bringing up wages, and valuing the rights of each and every Kentuckian.