

Mr. Chairman, members of the Republican Town Committee, members of the media, and friends.

**THIS** is a wonderful moment!

There is nowhere I would rather be right now than standing before you. I am humbled by your vote of confidence in me. I am grateful for your endorsement of both my candidacy and my dream of becoming the next state representative from the 118<sup>th</sup> District.

I am so proud that you have chosen me to be the Republican candidate. I am honored to accept your nomination. And I am committed to repaying your confidence in me with a hard-fought, honest – and ultimately victorious – campaign for the State House of Representatives.

Those of you who know me well will nod in agreement when I say that, with me, “What you see is what you get.”

I am straightforward - no hidden agenda. I love people – never had a reason or desire to shy away from a spirited conversation. I work hard – and have a successful local business to prove it. And I have energy.

ENERGY. **ENERGY!**

With your help, I will harness my energy, focus our efforts, and launch this campaign from a strong Republican platform. I will be true to you. True to myself. And, most importantly, true to the people of the 117<sup>th</sup>.

I got involved in politics because there are things going in government that I thought CANNOT be true. For example:

Did you know that the population of Connecticut has increased only 1% since 1990? Literally stagnant. The Consumer Price Index, on the other hand, has grown 58% during the same time period.

Now take a guess at how much our State budget has increased since 1990! It has grown 293% since 1990! I thought, "This can't be TRUE!" But unfortunately, it is.

Well, you ask, is it possible that this spending spree produced some benefit for our state's business, our industry or our citizens? How about the job market in our state? With the population level, did all that spending grow jobs?

3.

Not a chance! In fact, since 1990, Connecticut is one of only two states in the nation to experience a net job loss! *{pause}*

This is sad, and this is true. And this is NOT what I want for my state, my region, or my neighbors.

And so I stand before you today. I reached a turning point that many of us in this room have reached. It's the point in adulthood where we either turn away in disgust from what's going on in government, or we decide to re-shuffle our commitments, roll up our sleeves, and get involved.

I made my choice and got involved in politics, as did you. But my politics and yours are NOT the Democrat politics of big budgets and polite promises.

OURS are the politics of REAL work. We dig into the causes and conditions. We refuse to throw money at problems that can be fixed in other ways.

4.

OURS are the politics of real ACTION. We work to reverse the growth of government. We strive to draw business back to Connecticut instead of driving them away.

The first step toward re-painting the landscape in Hartford begins on this Republican platform. It takes commitment, enthusiasm and energy.

You have these, and so do I.

So as I leave this podium to begin this campaign, please remember how grateful I am for your trust in me.

I thank you for your endorsement, your support, and your friendship.

We have a ride ahead of us that I wouldn't miss for anything, and a seat to claim in Hartford that belongs to us. Let's get going!

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