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February 1, 2008

Today I officially announced my intention to seek the Republican nomination for the office of Public Service Commissioner. As I begin my border-to-border tour of North Dakota, one of my first priorities is to touch base with the grassroots of our party by communicating directly with each district chair and sharing with you my experience and qualifications and ask for your support and vote at the State Republican Convention in March!

Serving in the North Dakota Senate since 1993 and as the Senate Majority Leader since 2001, I have **fifteen years of hands-on experience** as a consumer advocate and working with businesses and industry as well as local, state and federal policy makers on issues important to our state. It is this experience and a history of leadership and results that uniquely qualifies me to serve as Public Service Commissioner.

My roots are deep in North Dakota. Together with my wife, Kathy, we have raised our four children and have enjoyed the abundances North Dakota has to offer. I have had the privilege in my years of service in the state Senate to work with many of you and attend your district meetings and I share your commitment to the principles of the Republican party. **As Public Service Commissioner, these principles will guide me to advocate for consumers, work with utilities and telecoms to achieve common sense solutions, manage our resources wisely and advocate for policy that puts North Dakota at the nexus of the national and global energy market.**

As our country continues to work toward energy independence, **I have worked hard in the state Senate to create an environment for North Dakota to be a leader in production and export of oil, coal, and natural gas as well as wind and alternative energies and to lead the world in carbon sequestration and related technologies to enhance oil recovery and store greenhouse gases.** Our next Public Service Commissioner will need to have the experience and knowledge to work with all levels of government and industry to set the stage for tremendous growth and opportunity for our state.

In the coming days and weeks, and as I continue my tour of the state, I look forward to speaking with you and visiting your district. **I am optimistic about the future of North Dakota and I hope I can enlist your support to share this optimism with the citizens of our state through my campaign and at the Republican State Convention in Fargo this March.**

One of the greatest rewards of a campaign is being able to visit with North Dakotans about issues important to them. Today I will visit Fargo, Bismarck, and Dickinson as I launch my campaign and I will again be in Bismarck on February 5 for the Presidential Caucus. Since my campaign obligations will keep me in Bismarck on the 5th, I would be grateful if you would read the enclosed statement to your district caucus.

Thank you for all you do for your district and the Republican party - I look forward to the campaign and am eager to earn your support and your vote for my nomination at the state convention in March!

As always, feel free to contact me anytime by phone 701-391-5227 or email bob@bobstenehjem.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Stenehjem' in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Bob Stenehjem