

REMARKS OF STATE SENATOR STEVE BUEHRER
CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS

September 20, 2007

I know that you, like me, were shocked and saddened by the passing of Congressman Paul Gillmor in the last few days. For nearly 20 years, we, of the 5th District, were capably served by this man who exemplified service and character in all his action. Our sympathy and prayers continue to go out to the Gillmor family in this time of sorrow and remembrance.

With the passing of Congressman Gillmor and the setting of a very short election window by our governor, the people of the 5th congressional district must now make a new choice about the person that they want to serve them in Washington. My view is that this great area of Northern Ohio is an area rich in tradition, community and family. This region was wrestled from the great Black Swamp by hardworking immigrants who sought a better life for themselves and their families. Their legacies are the prosperous towns and small cities that dot the 5th Congressional district. Living within those communities are the children and grandchildren of these brave conservative families who want the same things their ancestors sought years ago- freedom to worship their God, to have individual freedoms, and to seek opportunity to improve their lives and that of their family.

Standing here today I am one of those people. For six generations, my family has called this region its home. My ancestors were not political leaders or captains of industry. They didn't own vast tracts of land or thriving enterprises. They were hard working people who farmed the land, ran the news paper delivered the mail and even marched off to war when called. My grandparents and parents never ran for office or sought the lime light- they simply instilled in us the richness of this region, the opportunity to pursue

our dreams and the need for a higher calling of faith. In my life I have been richly blessed and have had great opportunities, but I am no different than any one else today in the 5th district who rolled out of bed today, pulled on their clothes and went out into the world to make a better place for their family and community.

In 1966, a man now known to us all announced his candidacy for the governorship of a state far away with these words:

“To begin with – I am not a politician. I am an ordinary citizen with a deep-seated belief that much of what troubles us has been brought about by politicians; and it’s high time that more ordinary citizens brought the fresh air of common sense thinking to bear on these problems. We’ve had enough of the wheeling and dealing, and enough of the schemers and the schemes.”

Like Ronald Reagan- who spoke those words- I am not a career politician. I am an ordinary citizen who thinks government and this country can do better. For that reason, I am today announcing my candidacy for Congress to represent Ohio’s 5th Congressional District.

This congressional seat should not be a birth right, it should not be filled or influenced by schemers miles from our home who seek only their own agendas. This seat belongs to the people and the people should put one of their own in it.

During my time in the State legislature, I have learned many things. One of those things is that there is often a price to pay for sticking up for your beliefs and values. I have paid that price in lost committees and political discipline and will gladly pay it again to represent this district. Taxes have grown too high and the reach of government into our wallets and lives too great. In Columbus, I have opposed higher taxes- even when proposed by members of my own party. I have fought to reform government in the areas of

transportation, workers compensation and civil service. I have supported the right to bear arms and have sought to promote the outdoor sports. I have voted 100% pro-life. There is much more to be done in Columbus- but there are also great challenges to be faced in our nation.

For that reason I am today humbly asking that the voters allow me the opportunity to take my humble roots, my conservative voting record and conservative values to Washington to continue the fight there.

There are great challenges facing our nation- we are in a war against terrorists we often can't see in a land that is far away from here. As we begin the withdrawal from that conflict-as we all pray will happen quickly- we must insure that our troops are well trained and well equipped in the field and well cared for when they come home. That is the appropriate role of Congress- not to arm chair quarterback on Monday morning or withhold the funds necessary to support our troops. We must address the issues of immigration reform. We must recognize that we are a nation of immigrants and that immigrant labor has helped build this nation. However, in a time of terrorists who seek to do us harm we must ensure the security and prosperity of our nation first. We must enforce the laws that are in place, ensure the security of our border and insist that immigrants who seek to come to this great nation do so under a legal process.

We also must focus our attention on strengthening Ohio and America's economy. Higher taxes, burdensome rules and unresponsive bureaucracies stifle business growth. As I have said on many occasions- we must build our transportation and energy capacities, we must invest in our workforce so that our citizens have world class skills and we must improve our tax and regulatory climate to allow people to have more control over their hard earned money. As small business owners ourselves, my wife

and understand the struggle it takes to get off the ground and to meet payroll in the face of numerous hurdles.

There are many more issues that merit my attention. In the next few weeks and in the years ahead, I will travel this district to tell the people who I am and what I believe, but I will also travel this district to listen. The solutions to our problems are not far away in marble buildings in Washington. They are here in the common sense wisdom of the heart land. I am a child of that wisdom and this great region. People today want change in Washington and character in their leaders. I will help bring about that change and will show the character and work ethic this region deserves. Today I stand ready to go to work as the next Congressman from the 5th District.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce my family- and let you know that we are eager to meet people across this area and to go to work.

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