

NEWS RELEASE

“I’m running because people need to matter again in Washington”

Nolan Announces Candidacy for 8th District Congress

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, July 13, 2011

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(Note: High-quality audio clips available at <http://nolanforcongress.org/media>)

(CROSBY, MN) July 13, 2011 . . . Declaring that “America is at a tipping point, and the middle class is under assault by the Republican Party, big corporations and powerful special interests,” former Minnesota Democratic Congressman Rick Nolan formally entered the 8th District Congressional race today.

Nolan represented Minnesota’s old 6th District from 1975 to 1981. He said it became clear after three months of pre-campaign meetings with DFL party leaders and citizens throughout the 18 counties of the 8th that “people don’t feel like they matter anymore when decisions are being made in Washington. Over and over again, they’ve told me the same thing in one way or another:

“Wall Street matters. Big banks and big corporations matter. The rich and the powerful matter – so they just keep getting richer and more powerful. If you’re too big to fail, you matter.”

“But if you’re struggling – if you’re unemployed – if you’re losing your home – if you can’t make the rent or you depend on a food shelf to get you through the month, you don’t matter at all.”

Nolan is on a whirlwind media tour of the district today and tomorrow. In prepared remarks, he cited restoration of the middle class and middle class jobs as central to the nation’s economic recovery.

“The economy will not grow strong again until we restore income and income security to the middle class. Today, non-taxpaying multinational corporations are sitting on trillions of dollars in cash while they demand more tax cuts before they will be willing to invest that money.

“Obviously, they don’t need more tax cuts. What they need is a middle class in America that can afford to buy their products. Right now, the rich are getting richer. The poor are getting poorer. And the middle class is being eliminated.

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“We can create and keep good middle class jobs by reversing the current tax and trade policies that provide incentives for companies to move manufacturing overseas. That’s what other countries have done and so must we.

“We create jobs by rebuilding our infrastructure and investing in mass transit and high speed rail here in America. We finance these policies by eliminating the Bush tax cuts for the rich and putting an end to costly Wars of Choice and an ever expanding military empire. The money and the needs are there. The simple truth is – we need to take back control of our government and rearrange our priorities. That’s what this campaign is all about.”

In his announcement, Nolan leveled criticism at both Republicans and President Obama for considering cuts to Social Security and Medicare as part of any deal to raise the national debt limit. “Social Security and Medicare are intergenerational American compacts. And I will never vote to support cuts or schemes to take care of everybody over 55 and throw the rest of the nation under the bus. We are a better country than that.”

Nolan cited the urgent need for Congress and the president to bring down the national debt and balance the budget, but added, “I’m tired of hearing politicians from both parties talk about ‘tough budget choices’ where the people on the tough end of those choices are always those least able to survive them.”

Nolan also emphasized his lifelong ties to Northern Minnesota and the 8th District. “I’m a son of the 8th. Born and raised here. My family and my business are here. I tap maple syrup in the spring, harvest wild rice in the fall and cheer my local hockey teams all winter.

“My neighbors and I never miss a hunting or a fishing opener. Those are 8th District holidays tantamount to Thanksgiving and Christmas. I know the people up here. I know their hopes and dreams and aspirations because I have the same ones for my family.”