



New Hampshire Senate News Release

For Immediate Release

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Senator Bob Odell Announces Retirement

Concord, NH – Sen. Bob Odell, R-New London, representative of Senate District 8, announced today that he will not seek re-election this fall. After 12 years in the State Senate, Sen. Odell issued the following statement:

"I believe it is time to leave the Senate. I have served six terms and look forward to spending more time with my companion, Judy Butler, my family and friends along with pursuing my hobbies, local charitable organizations and other interests.

"I prepare to leave the Senate with my most sincere thanks to the voters who have elected me election after election and to my constituents I have had the privilege to serve. As a New Hampshire native, being in our 24 member State Senate has been a continuum of my family's tradition of public service going back several generations that is important to me.

"As my colleagues all know, serving in the New Hampshire Senate is both a unique privilege and a sacrifice. And much of that sacrifice is paid for by your family in the form of missed dinners, birthdays, vacations, and all kinds of special occasions because of the demands of the office. After fourteen years in the legislature those missed occasions start to add up.

"A few weeks ago I told Senator Morse that I was trying to decide whether I should run again. On one hand I was excited about interacting with the voters during the campaign. In many ways that is the fun part of the job. On the other hand I was hesitant about making another two-year commitment of time away from family and friends. Senator Morse advised me to take my time in deciding. He also told me that while I might regret not being in the Senate, I would never regret spending more time with my loved ones. That pretty much summed up what I had been feeling inside. So when he and I spoke again last week I told him I had decided not to run for re-election with no regrets."

Senator Odell was elected to the Senate in 2002 after serving one term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. He is the only member of the Senate who has been a committee chair from his first term. Odell served on the three committees for all six terms: Finance Committee; Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chair for three terms); and, Ways and Means (Chair for four terms).

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