



May 15, 2017

Caucus Members,

Every two years, our caucus has an internal discussion about who should lead us into, and through, the next election and legislative session.

Today, I am announcing my intention to run for Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. During the last few months, I have been encouraged by fellow caucus members to run for this position. It is a decision I do not take lightly. After meeting with members of our caucus over the past several weeks, I am confident I have the support needed to secure the nomination.

Meeting with caucus members has also given me the chance to discuss the issues and concerns affecting your districts and all areas of our state. As Speaker, my focus will be on caucus priorities, not my own, and towards our shared solutions to benefit our state. It's vital we continue to allow every caucus member to have input on the policy and direction of the House.

As a candidate to serve, once again, in our caucus leadership, I believe it's important we focus on demonstrated leadership and actions. When I ran for Speaker Pro Tem, I laid out a robust plan to improve our caucus communications. I anticipated the changes in media and communications and, this session, with the help of members of our caucus messaging team, we have dramatically improved our caucus communications with Missouri voters. This is important not only in promoting our caucus priorities, but also in positioning most effectively ahead of the 2018 election.

Lastly, we just completed an historic session where we accomplished many of the priorities that we had been unable to pass over the past decade. But like any session, there remains unfinished business and numerous caucus member priorities that we must get passed. Over the coming months, I look forward to working with each and every one of you to develop a strategy for passing your priorities. While the outcome of legislation can often be beyond our control, preparation will ensure our caucus and our priorities are best positioned in advance of the 2018 legislative session.

Over the next few months, I am looking forward to meeting with all of you again to discuss the future of our caucus and our state. I ask for your support and am always available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Elijah