



CONGRESSMAN JO BONNER
ALABAMA

Contact: Randy Hinaman
(703) 549-6760

MOBILE – U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner today released the following statement ending months of speculation regarding his possible candidacy for governor of Alabama in the June 2010 Republican primary:

“Over the past several months, countless people from all corners of our state have encouraged me to run for governor next year. Without question, the strong words of encouragement and, in many instances, the generous offers of support for a statewide campaign have not only been flattering but extremely humbling as well.”

“But after a lot of serious thought and consideration, as well as many heartfelt prayers, Janée and I have concluded that now is simply not the right time to launch a statewide campaign.”

“Some may ask how I arrived at this decision. First, I consider it one of life’s great honors to represent the people of Alabama’s First District in Congress. Moreover, I believe I can continue to make a significant contribution – not only for my district but for our entire state – in my current position. To that end, I fully intend to seek reelection to Congress in the 2010 election cycle.

“Our country is facing some serious economic challenges, we are still fighting on two battlefields in the ‘war on terror’ and southwest Alabama has not been immune from either of these two facts.”

“Working closely with Governor Riley over the past six years, we have brought many historic economic development opportunities to southwest Alabama. But the national – and global – economic stress has had a significant impact on many families who live in Alabama’s First Congressional District, and I believe I can best focus my attention on fulfilling the promise of some of these projects if I am not dividing my time between being a full-time congressman and traveling through all 67 counties as a candidate for governor.”

“Tomorrow I will join a small delegation from Congress who will be traveling internationally to focus on our national security interests abroad. Thousands of families from all across Alabama continue to share in the sacrifice of protecting our great country during these dangerous times. I am looking forward to not only getting a first-hand update on the progress

being made, but I am excited, once again, about offering our genuine thanks to these brave, unselfish men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day.”

“Last, but certainly not least, was the consideration that Janée and I had to give to the impact a statewide campaign might have on our two children. Despite what some believe, running for office is not easy — especially on the candidate’s family — and with a 13-year-old daughter and a soon-to-be 11-year-old son, we concluded that adding the demands of a statewide campaign to an already time-consuming schedule that takes me to Washington some 40 weeks a year would simply be more of a burden on Lee and Robins than would be fair. My family will always be my first priority.”

“In closing, allow me to offer my deepest gratitude to the hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of people who have called, written and otherwise encouraged me to consider this race. Neither Congress – as an institution – nor politics – as a chosen profession – are highly regarded by most people these days. And yet, over the past several months, I can not begin to describe the truly humbling feeling that has come when people from all walks of life and from all areas of our great state, have encouraged me to run for governor.”

“It goes without saying but it is absolutely vital to Alabama’s future that we elect someone next year who will build on the successful foundation that has been laid by Governor Bob Riley. Without exception, Bob has been the best governor in our state’s history. He and Patsy represent us with class, with integrity and with determination that our state is finally on a new path toward greatness. Over the next few months, I hope we can all rally around the person who is best able to continue the Riley agenda and extend the Riley legacy.”

--3--

For immediate release: February 3, 2009